Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Efforts 'To Maintain Independence' Reiterated

FL1207000291 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1951 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Cuba reiterated today in Geneva, Switzerland that it will continue the fight to maintain its national independence and that it is not willing to sacrifice any of the social or economic rights it has won. This reaffirmation was expressed by Ambassador Jose Perez Navoa when he spoke at the UN Economic and Social Council meeting held in this European city.

The diplomat explained the efforts Cuba is making under the current economic situation which is characterized by the dismantling of the socialist system, the loss of cooperation with former socialist countries, and the increase of the U.S. embargo against our country.

Perez Novoa mentioned socioeconomic development and new weapons are important factors for international security. He condemned the imperialist tariff system imposed on Third World countries.

Machado Tours Matanzas, Discusses Congress

FL1207000191 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1949 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura has toured priority projects in Matanzas, the city that will host the main ceremony marking the 38th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks attack.

Speaking to Radio Reloj, Machado Ventura noted the quality and enthusiasm observed at the supertanker, the provincial clinical-surgical hospital, and the AIDS sanitarium which will open on 26 July.

While touring the supertanker base, Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first party secretary of the province, briefed Machado Ventura on the benefits and potential of this gigantic project. The Politburo member also toured some zones of defense and protection for the population which conform well to the topographic conditions of Matanzas.

During his tour to prioritized projects in Matanzas, Machado Ventura told Radio Reloj that the plans for the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba are developing well and are in line with the work timetable. He described the congress as different, broader, and democratic and said it will try to find innovative ways to conform to and support the party.

Machado Ventura also toured Matanzas' new clinical-surgical hospital which will have 766 beds. It is expected that the group of medical services, a cistern, a laundry, and machinery will be operational by next year. Later today, the political leader will visit the San Jose Dam, a liquid detergent factory, and a steel foundry.

* Interior Minister on Special Period, Crime

91CA0168B Havana GRANMA in Spanish 6 Jul 91 p 2

[Interview with Corps Commander Abelardo Colome Ibarra, founding member and current head of the Interior Ministry (Minint), and member of the Politburo of the Party Central Committee, by Julio A. Marti of the Minint magazine MONCADA, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of that ministry]

[Text] [Marti] We have reached the 30th Anniversary of the Minint. What were the needs of the time? What memories do you have of that occasion?

[Colome] The period when the ministry was founded was characterized by exceptional developments related to the survival of the Revolution. I can tell you that the essential requirement of the Revolution was revolutionary strength and combativeness on the part of all of the people, including the combatants of the Minint, in the face of a severe class struggle imposed by the internal enemy, who was encouraged, financed, and armed by the imperialists.

All other requirements were derived from this one: the need to acquire cultural, professional, and technical knowledge; to obtain practical experience in the struggle against the counterrevolutionary, antisocial external enemy; to create the organization and structures to undertake the tasks of state security and internal order in the country; and many other needs.

At present we are undergoing difficult times on the economic front, and we must deal with the enemy's extreme virulence toward the Revolution, now that they have been propelled into a state of euphoria by the imposition of their schemes in the international arena.

At this juncture, after 30 years, I would say that the essential requirement of this instant is still strength and combativeness on all fronts: in the fulfillment and protection of the strategic objectives set forth by the Party and Fidel to emerge from the Special Period by developing the Food Plan, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals production, the tourism industry, and others, all combined with the efforts to guarantee the people's accomplishments, the security of our socialist state, internal order, and the tranquility of the citizenry.

My most pleasant and lasting memories of the time when the ministry was founded are related to the dedication, selflessness, courage, and simplicity of the founders, and their intimate and strong bonds with the people, their firm desire to neutralize and destroy the enemy's plans against the Revolution.

These qualities and conditions, and the unbreakable ties with the people, were and continue to be the requirements for victory.

[Marti] At present we are seeing a pitched battle against crime. What role does the Minint play on this front? What has been the contribution or role of other government agencies in this joint effort?

[Colome] In recent times our society has faced various criminal and antisocial manifestations that have disturbed

the tranquility of our people. The revolutionary leadership has taken vigorous measures of all kinds to deal with this development.

Everyone is familiar with the blow that was recently dealt, and continues to be dealt, to the antisocial and corrupt elements who were trying to live off the sweat of the people and the resources of the state, in an operation known to the public as "Maceta" [mallet]. This operation has done away with many parasites and lumpens.

As a result, we have learned a great deal about the weakness of our measures for the inspection, protection, and security of warehouses, resources, and property of all kinds that is taken or diverted by these elements without detection by the monitoring and protection systems. Right now the various agencies of the government, the People's Government, and the ministry itself are working hard to eliminate the causes and conditions that promote this kind of criminal activity.

In addition, with the help of our working people, during this stage we have been contending with various criminal and antisocial activities that cause irritation and annoyance to our people, such as the so-called "coleros" [people who are paid to stand in line for others], and individuals who disturb the peace in public places, on public transportation, and in recreation centers, among other places. Efforts to detect, report, and combat them will continue so that we can guarantee the tranquility of our citizenry.

In the capital and throughout the country, the ministry has strengthened itself organizationally and qualitatively, and it is engaged in an open offensive against any criminal or antisocial manifestation. It is well on the way to being able to guarantee internal order and public peace, and some concrete results have already been obtained in this regard.

Naturally, this fight against crime is not easy, especially given the shortages and various limitations that we face, and it is the responsibility of all factors, be they state, government, social, or the people as a whole.

As we were saying before, measures of all kinds are being adopted in this struggle by the various factors: by the People's Government, by the Prosecutor's Office and the courts, by the mass and social organizations. They will undoubtedly reduce crime and antisocial manifestations in the medium term, and will eliminate impunity as well. There are also moral factors involved in the problem of crime, and they must be confronted by improving educational efforts and enhancing the role of the family and the social environment of every citizen.

We can say, finally, that in many jurisdictions measures have been adopted for surveillance, prevention, and protection, which promise to reduce criminal activity. It is worth noting the support and actions that the Party at its various levels has contributed to this battle, as well as those of the government, the Prosecutor's Office, the courts, and the entire nation.

[Marti] What role do you attribute to the press in the struggle against crime and the prevention of criminal activity?

[Colome] The press undoubtedly plays and will play in the future a very active role in the struggle against crime, and especially in crime prevention.

Journalists' articles and in-depth reports aimed at informing the public and explaining the crimes that may occur in various areas of our society, and reporting the causes and conditions that promote crime, are very useful preventive tools in general. They also serve to alert everyone in the public so that they can detect, neutralize, and eliminate these activities when they occur.

It is also important to report on the general activities of the state and government entities, as well as those of the ministry and our Prosecutor's Office and courts, which are aimed at combating crime and eliminating impunity.

I think that in the longer term, it is necessary for our mass media to make a systematic effort to inform and educate the public regarding the principles of our socialist legal system, on the protection, monitoring, and care of social and personal resources and property, and on respect for the standards and regulations of social coexistence, for the strict purpose of enhancing internal order and the tranquility of our working people.

[Marti] What do you see happening in the Minint in the next few years, in the context of the Revolution?

[Colome] As an integral and active part of our state organs, the Minint will act and develop in concert with the process that our entire society is undergoing, in the interest of achieving the economic and social development that will enable us to end the Special Period in Time of Peace in the medium term.

In this battle, the institution must give top priority to its sacred mission, safeguarding the conquests of our people; it must detect, neutralize, and prevent any action or attempt by the enemy to subvert or destroy the Revolution, and it must guarantee peace and order for our citizenry.

In conjunction with this mission, it must develop an intensive effort to protect the objectives and plans set forth by the revolutionary leadership for this difficult period in our development, and it must participate actively in the enforcement of various measures aimed at making our organization more economical, more rational, and more efficient.

[Marti] The Ministry of the Interior is basically a nonproductive entity. Nevertheless, during the Special Period some noteworthy efforts have been made in some areas. Which of these are the most significant, in your opinion?

[Colome] As you have stated so well, our organization is basically nonproductive, but various measures or tasks are being carried out to make it more economical. It is also committing everyone's efforts to the tasks outlined by our Party and Fidel.

In the first place, I would like to tell you that various measures have been taken to guarantee the conservation and rational use of fuels and lubricants, and to develop alternative sources of energy for a variety of uses.

In addition, in all of our units measures have been taken to ensure compliance with the missions in the different variants of the Special Period, even the most complex.

As for farm production, a tremendous effort has been made. The same is true in the areas of self-consumption in the units themselves. The goal is to gradually reduce a large segment of economic allocations until they are completely eliminated, with regard to grains, vegetables of all types, and meats.

Efforts are also being made, with concrete results, in the area of invention and innovation. The manufacture of spare parts of all kinds for transportation and other technical equipment is proceeding apace, as is the invention and innovation of resources and equipment for operational and technical work throughout the ministry's jurisdiction.

There are a variety of other measures that have been adopted to deal with the present situation, such as the rationalization of administrative and management positions; the rationalization of informational, administrative, and bureaucratic processes; and the relocation of manpower in accordance with existing possibilities, bearing in mind the areas of residence. All of these measures will result in savings, rationality, and optimum utilization of resources.

Although we have made much progress in this area, we must continue to pursue these efforts so that we can become increasingly economical, rational, and efficient.

[Marti] Could you take this opportunity to say a few words to the members of the Minint on the occasion of the new anniversary?

[Colome] There is something I would like to express, and that is the deep satisfaction I feel as the leader of men who have developed their strength in the most difficult battles, and of other, younger men whose efforts and dedication prove that they are worthy heirs of the pioneers in this country's internal security and order.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations on this 30th Anniversary of our institution to all of our combatants whose perseverance and daily efforts are making it possible to fight antisocial or counterrevolutionary crimes, and who are serving our people in the interest of protecting their tranquility and security.

I am entirely convinced—and this is also the view of the revolutionary leadership—that our combatants will be able once again to prove their capabilities in the difficult circumstances that surround us, and that their efforts and dedication will contribute to the progress of socialism, led by the Party and by Fidel.

[Marti] What other subject do you think should be covered that has not been brought up in this interview?

[Colome] Finally, on behalf of all of the leaders, officers, and combatants of the ministry, I would like to express our most profound recognition of our revolutionary people for the decisive contribution they have made during these 30 years to the work of our institution. Without it, we would not have been able to reach this point. Their contribution will enable us to move forward, responding with more sacrifice, more dedication, and more efficiency.

* Bicycle Safety Measures, Accidents Discussed

91CA0168A Havana GRANMA in Spanish 8 Jun 91 p 2

[Article by Emilio del Barrio Menendez]

[Text] The large-scale introduction of bicycles in the country, especially in Havana, is a very rational and convenient alternative from all standpoints: economic, environmental, and health.

No matter how you look at it, it is a net gain. Only one factor really requires an alert, and it has to do with road accidents.

In my opinion, however, that cannot be blamed on this individual mode of transportation. Rather, it has to do with a number of elements involved in the creation of the necessary conditions for the assimilation of bicycles in large quantities. Above all, it has to do with the responsibility shared by everyone who travels on the streets in one way or another: drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

For some time now, the appropriate agencies have been working vigorously and quickly to provide safe conditions on the roadways, especially for cyclists.

In this connection, paths devoted exclusively to bicycle traffic have been established downtown on primary avenues and streets that are suitable for such traffic. A bike lane is being built to the east of the city, and bicycle traffic has been banned on 23 roads. All of this is designed to ensure the maximum possible safety without disrupting the flow of traffic.

At the same time, measures are being taken to increase the number of traffic lights and to provide traffic safety classes for cyclists. Educational brochures on traffic laws are being printed for distribution to cyclists when they purchase their bicycles, and police are stepping up their preventive efforts on the streets and avenues.

Similarly, an effort is being made to continue improving the highway system with regard to new bike paths and lanes, and to increase the number of traffic signals. It is impossible to do too much to increase safety.

Nevertheless, it is my opinion that all these measures will achieve their objectives only if everyone acts responsibly and shows solidarity, respect, and strict compliance with the traffic laws. Between January and 27 May, there were 171 accidents involving bicycles in Havana, with the tragic toll of 26 deaths and 118 injuries. The fundamental causes were: going the wrong way, failing to yield the right of way, running red lights and stop signs, and passing illegally.

Other practices, such as riding side by side, going without lights at night, going down the middle of the street, grabbing on to motor vehicles to be towed along, and performing acrobatic acts in the street, have also taken their disastrous toll.

It is estimated that by the end of the year approximately 400,000 bicycles will be circulating around the capital. Therefore, the battle against accidents will take on a greater priority, and responsibility and respect for traffic laws will be a key element in that effort.

Costa Rica

Arms Cache Intended for Nicaragua Located

PA1207020891 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Jul 91 p 11-a

[Text] Public Security Minister Victor Emilio Herrera has confirmed that a cache of ammunition for machine guns and heavy caliber mortars that was to be taken to Nicaragua was discovered by members of the Civil Guard in a sector between Markers 7 and 8 on the northern border.

The discovery was made on Tuesday, 2 July, but it was not until yesterday that members of the special explosives team of the Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS) proceeded to destroy the mortar shells and gather up the other ammunition and materiel that had been accumulated in five knapsacks.

Security authorities provided the following list of materiel found in the northern area: over 4,700 7.62-cal machine gun cartridges and 20 60-mm mortar shells, as well as other war materiel.

"We believe this materiel was dug up by Nicaraguans who knew where the 'cache' was located and intended to take it to Nicaragua, but decided to abandon it when they saw what poor shape it was in," the minister said.

The minister said those responsible for the cache of ammunition are not members of a military front being organized in the border area, but rather a group of former fighters who, for various reasons, have been recovering materiel that was hidden during the Nicaraguan war.

The minister said that several arms caches have been detected in the past few days, thanks to the border police. He urged the border police to continue working in this regard.

For his part, DIS Director Rogelio Ramos said that individuals will not be allowed to use our territory to carry out destabilizing actions against neighboring governments; therefore, efforts to locate materiel left over from the 10-year war will continue.

El Salvador

FMLN Sees Progress on Armed Forces Topic

PA1107183591 Paris AFP in Spanish 0825 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jul (AFP)—Government and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] delegates have made important progress in the topic of structural changes in public security, which will clear the way for the establishment of a civil national police, FMLN member Salvador Samayoa reported on Wednesday, 10 June.

He explained that on this point "we are reaching an understanding as to how to carry out the dissolution of the security corps, which is subordinate to the Army."

"Public security plays a key role in the context of peace, where the Army as such lowers its profile in the life of the nation," the FMLN delegate noted, adding that "we are analyzing the matter in all its complexity because we want to reach viable agreements."

He said he does not expect this meeting to produce public agreements but rather understandings that will be put "on hold," subject to a subsequent revision depending on what is agreed on other topics.

The sides, with the mediation of UN representative Alvaro de Soto, have been discussing since Thursday, 9 July, political aspects of the Armed Forces topic. On this occasion, they are not analyzing the cease-fire issue.

Samayoa added that on 11 July "we will discuss socioeconomic topics and the FMLN's incorporation into the political mainstream," he noted. "I do not want to create expectations about this agreement, but we are optimistic."

Regarding the latest fighting in El Salvador, he commented that "it constitutes a political signal to the most retrograde sectors within the Armed Forces and extreme right groups opposed to any progress in the negotiations."

The FMLN leader noted that "there is no more room for these groups in the history of our country, which is going to change whether they like it or not." Attending the meeting, which may conclude on 11 July, are Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Leonel Gonzalez, and Samayoa for the FMLN, and Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, Interior Minister Juan Antonio Martinez Varela, and Colonel Mauricio Vargas, deputy chief of staff, for the government.

Ponce on FMLN; Murder of Communal Leader

PA1107173091 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Report by Carlos Mario Marquez]

[Text] This morning Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce deplored the military campaign that was launched on 8 July by the guerrillas in different parts of the country. Gen. Ponce said that as the peace talks resume in Mexico, the launching of a military campaign raises doubts about the willingness of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to end the 11-year war.

[Begin Gen. Ponce recording] These actions do not contribute to the peace process currently underway. We have already begun the corresponding investigations to find those responsible. In the measure that the investigations progress, we will be reporting to the media as we want to get to the bottom of this.

These actions are irrational, brutal, and have no logic within the climate that we are presently experiencing in the country. We believe that these actions come from the sectors which do not believe in the peace process and are trying to block it.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the security organizations?

[Ponce] All branches of the Armed Forces definitely support the peace process. We know that that is the best path to find peace. Sectors which do not believe in the peace process are responsible for acts of violence. We do

not have specific reports that Armed Forces members or security forces elements may be involved in acts of violence.

The acts of violence caused by the FMLN since [words indistinct] have been called: If the Armed Forces want our arms, let them win the war. This is a warmongering and violent position which is not in accordance with the irreversible peace process, as FMLN leaders have said. These actions are aimed at causing negative reactions on the part of the government. However, the government will not fall into this trap.

We will continue to support the peace process to find peace in El Salvador. [end recording]

These were statements by Gen. Ponce on the murder of a communal leader. Ponce reported that the Armed Forces will conduct an investigation to clarify this incident. He also commented on the violent actions launched on 8 July, which marked the beginning of a new military campaign by the FMLN.

Rebels Blame Government

PA1107182191 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Communique issued by the General Staff of the National Army for Democracy]

[Text] In the face of the brutal murder of Martin Ayala Ramirez and the cowardly torture inflicted upon his wife, both members of the Council of the Downtrodden Communities, we hereby report the following:

1. We hold the Cristiani government, the Armed Forces, and Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] responsible for this crime.

2. The Council of the Downtrodden Communities is one of the organizations that have been promoting the struggle for the right to land. A few hours prior to the murder, Arena President Armando Calderon Sol had said he would not allow any takeovers in the capital city. Martin Ayala Ramirez and his wife had been violently evicted from an urban lot of land by the National Police, and shortly thereafter, Ayala was brutally murdered and his wife was cowardly mutilated and left in very critical condition.

3. Crimes such as this one and the murders of the Jesuit priests, Msgr. Romero, the U.S. nuns, and tens of thousands of Salvadorans are the reasons why we are fighting. We will continue to fight until we put an end to impunity and militarism and attain democracy.

4. The chiefs, officers, and fighters of the National Army for Democracy extend our condolences to the relatives of Mr. Ayala, the Council of Downtrodden Communities, and the people's movements in general, and we reiterate that these crimes will not be left unpunished.

[Signed] The General Staff of the National Army for Democracy
9 July 1991.

FMLN To Suspend Operations in Capital 15-17 Jul

PA1207020791 Paris AFP in Spanish 0143 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Jul (AFP)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) announced today that it will suspend its military operations in San Salvador between 15 and 17 July, as a gesture of goodwill toward the upcoming Central American summit.

FMLN Commander Leonel Gonzalez said that the suspension will only be implemented in the Salvadoran capital from 0600 to 1200, adding that the current guerrilla campaign, "If They Want Weapons Let Them Win the War," will enter a phase where its activities tend to diminish.

FMLN Commander Reportedly Killed in Action

PA1107183891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Report by Dagoberto Zaavedra Garay]

[Excerpt] Attention, this is a last minute bulletin. Just 15 minutes ago, spokespersons in Department 5 of the 6th Infantry Brigade reported that fighting between soldiers of the Tario Battalion of the 6th Infantry Brigade and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels at Hacienda La Cabana in Jucuaran, Usulutan Department, has left four rebels dead. Among them is Commander Dimas of the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front, which operates in the Jucuaran area, southeast of Usulutan city.

The military source also reported that an AK-47 rifle and other war materiel were seized in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Commander Dimas' Death Confirmed

PA1107233291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2216 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The Salvadoran Army reported today that rebel Commander "Dimas" was killed yesterday during intense clashes between the Army and the guerrillas that took place in Usulutan Department.

A spokesman for the 6th Infantry Brigade told NOTIMEX that "Dimas" and three other rebels were killed during a "surprise attack" by "Tario" Battalion troops on a rebel position at the La Cabana ranch in the Jucuaran municipality.

The spokesman said that the operation was a "success" because the rebel leader was the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) military chief for the Jucuaran area, located 130 km from San Salvador. The source stated that, after an intense clash, an AK-47 rifle and ammunition were seized as well as "numerous documents" which the leader of the FMLN's "Francisco Sanchez" Southeastern Front was carrying in his backpack.

The spokesman added that the Tario Battalion troops did not suffer any casualties and that they were able to surprise

the rebels because the inhabitants of the area, which is considered to have a large rebel presence, revealed their location.

Although the FMLN has still not made any comments regarding the incident, if the Army's version is confirmed, "Dimas" will be the third rebel chief killed during an Army operation in the last four months.

Commanders "Jesus Rojas" and "Camilo Turcios" were killed during two separate ambushes prepared by the Army in the Chalatenango and San Vicente Departments in the north and central part of the country.

Urban Commando Groups Announce Military Actions

PA1107190591 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Communique issued by the Modesto Ramirez Urban Commando Groups in El Salvador on 10 July]

[Text] Within the framework of the national campaign of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], the Modesto Ramirez Urban Commando Groups of the National Army for Democracy [END] today carried out several military maneuvers.

1. The attack on the Military Academy consisted of throwing an explosive charge of 125 pounds of TNT that hit inside the building. As a result, one individual was killed while an undetermined number of persons were wounded.

2. At the same time, other commando groups carried out actions along the main highway, one near the (Maquiliscuas) neighborhood, on the Mas Ferrer Avenue. The second action was between 49th South Avenue and Roosevelt Boulevard.

3. Other forces attacked a post of the National Guard in the Guatemala neighborhood, near the softball park. One National Guardsman was killed.

Through these actions, the FMLN clearly shows its military capabilities in the enemy's rearguard, and shows once more that the conflict must have a political solution. These actions are an answer to the increased repression of the Army against the people's movement.

Guatemala

Serrano Rejects Criticism of U.S. Congressmen

PA1107161591 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias reacted on 9 July to the frequent visits by representatives of different U.S. institutions, some of whom have been in Guatemala within the past few days.

Over the past weekend, U.S. Congressman James McDermott, a representative from the State of Washington, visited Guatemala with other U.S. representatives to evaluate the human rights situation in Guatemala. All of them met with the Guatemalan president. President Serrano commented on these foreign evaluations of national policy, referring initially to Congressman McDermott's visit.

[Begin recording] [Serrano] These senators did not criticize my government.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] U.S. representatives?

[Serrano] No sir. They commented that things are improving in Guatemala, although more must be done. On 9 July, I told them that we are not responsible for the situation in the country—we inherited it. We have not covered up legal impunity. We have brought to light everything we could, and we will not rest until we find the criminals in this country.

I have been told that they said that if things do not change in Guatemala, or if the course we are following does not remain as established by the U.S. Government, there may be problems. I must also tell you, my dear friends, that Guatemala is Guatemala and it is for Guatemalans. We are struggling against legal impunity, and we do not need any foreigner to tell us what we must do.

I clearly stated on 9 July to one of the American delegates that they must not come to us with threats, because we have dignity and we know what we want. We do not need guidance. I must tell you, ladies and gentlemen of the media, that you do wrong in attempting to give the attributes of fatherhood to every Tom, Dick, and Harry who comes here and expresses his views.

What would happen if a Guatemalan went abroad to judge the actions of other states? He would be immediately thrown out, silenced, or jailed. We must respect one another. The Guatemalan people can judge our actions. Look at the progress we have made in the [words indistinct] cases and in the other cases that we inherited. We are working as Guatemalans, aware that we do not want any more of this in the country. It annoys me, it makes me really mad [guango] as they say in my hometown, when someone from abroad comes here to pass judgment. Anyone, it seems, can come here for two days, talk to four or five people, and leave Guatemala an expert on the country.

I would like you to ask them what they have to say about the constant violations of the human rights of American Indian groups in their own country, and who levels the corresponding accusations. We know what we are doing and what we want to do. I must ask you all to help me rescue our national dignity, because one of our problems has been that anyone can take advantage of the Guatemalan people—anyone will dare to say anything about us. Even though they may acknowledge—as in the case with these congressmen—that we have encountered problems, we are already showing our inability to reject as negative any comment that (?they may make).

If we want to be respected, we must change our attitude. We must decidedly defend what is ours to cleanse our country, because it is to our advantage to do so, not because anyone comes from abroad (?to tell us to do so). I do not meddle in the internal affairs of other countries, so

others must not meddle in our internal affairs. If we have acted wrongly in the field of human rights, that is why the UN observer is here. He acts under the authority of a multinational organization, the United Nations, with which we have signed agreements on respect for human rights and to which we render reports and issue pertinent information.

However, I refuse to believe that every Tom, Dick, and Harry, regardless of the authority [words indistinct] can come to Guatemala to tell us what we must do. I would like to have seen what would have happened with all of the human rights violations inflicted during the U.S. Civil War, or the human rights violations of World War II, many of which have yet to be explained.

Gentlemen, we must be aware of our situation. We have experienced 30 years of conflict, and my government had the courage, after 30 years, to sit down and talk with the insurgents, not to eliminate the effects, but to go directly to the causes of the social disorder that we are experiencing. [end recording]

President Announces Security Plan Implementation

PA1107161091

[Editorial Report] Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish at 0400 GMT on 10 July carries a 13-minute report on President Jorge Serrano's news conference at the National Palace in Guatemala City, where he announced the implementation of a special security plan, known as the TIP [Inmediate Tranquillity for the Population], to protect the citizenry.

President Serrano said that "the plan combines all the state security, investigation, and intelligence agencies" to prepare a file on the country's criminals," particularly to "learn where the criminals operate, how they operate," and what types of crimes are being perpetrated in the country—"to ascertain where the security forces have failed, how problems could be solved, and how the Guatemalan people can be given the tranquillity they desire." The president added that appropriate instructions have been issued "to the Government Ministry, the National Defense Ministry, the Labor Ministry, the presidential staff, the Attorney General's Office, and whatever other state agencies are necessary" to coordinate the plan's implementation.

Serrano then explained that "military personnel working in the TIP must wear the appropriate uniform" and "intelligence personnel will wear civilian clothes." He added that the Presidency will issue instructions to the Finance Ministry so that it may "appropriate the necessary resources." The president explained that the plan will involve two actions: "Preventive actions and repressive actions" to dissuade criminals from perpetrating a crime and to punish those who do perpetrate them. He emphasized that "repressive actions will be strictly carried out," but he explained that "this will be done according to the law." Moreover, the TIP will be strengthened by "four specific plans," which have already been implemented, to "guarantee proper judicial procedures, respect for human rights, public relations, and ethical behavior."

URNG Denies Allegations of Drug Trafficking

PA1107152291 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 6 Jul 91 p 61

["Declaration by the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity" on 4 July—place not given]

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, General Command absolutely and categorically rejects the slanderous allegation made by the Army in an attempt to implicate the URNG in drug trafficking.

The URNG General Command proclaims that this infamous scheme is meant to deceive and confuse the Guatemalan people and the international community and to invalidate it as a legitimate speaker in the negotiations process currently underway with the government.

After closely examining the events surrounding the seizure of a shipment of 500 kg of cocaine in El Peten Department, clumsy contradictions come to light and expose the scheme's design.

Four elements expose the fact that the Army has designed this provocation:

1- The defense minister clumsily and irresponsibly attempts in his 30 June speech to implicate the URNG in supposed drug trafficking activities.

2- The drugs are seized on a landing strip located in the center of El Peten Department, near El Subin Military Detachment, which is marked on public maps of the Republic of Guatemala.

3- A vehicle with legal license plates is seized during the operation. This is evidence to prove the identity of the members of the network that is really involved. The infrastructure shown in the news report reveals a legal apparatus and not a guerrilla operation.

4. The amount of drugs seized and the means and technique of transportation are evidence of the impunity of those involved and the authorities' complicity because of the location of the operation and other circumstances. It also means that in other parts of the country there are processing and purification laboratories as well as points for the deposit and delivery of drugs. All these are in connection with the international drug traffickers, whose ties to civilian and military authorities have been reported and denounced many times.

The URNG once again rejects these slanderous and false allegations and demands an international investigation into these facts, which, besides having serious political implications, cover larger drug trafficking operations in the country.

URNG General Command

Rolando Moran, commander; Pablo Monsanto, commander; Gaspar Ilom, commander; Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party] Central Committee
4 July 1991

Honduras

Callejas on L.A. Leaders Upcoming Meeting

PA1107172791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1820 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Report by German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Jul (EFE)—Honduran President Rafael Callejas hopes that the summit meeting of Latin American chiefs of state to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 18 and 19 July will be able to pull Latin America out of its inertia and at the same time consolidate economic modernization projects needed for entering the next millennium.

During an interview with EFE, Callejas said that the summit "is of historic importance" because this will be the first time that it will take place among Latin American chiefs of state who "have been elected," most of them, "by their people."

The president believes that perhaps many of his colleagues will think at the end of the summit that it did not produce "specific results," but, he said, what is important is that everyone decide to develop a new concept for the American Continent.

Callejas praised the Canada-United States-Mexico Free Commerce Zone and said this zone represents an opportunity that Central America should use to point its efforts in that direction because "it is there, without a doubt, where our largest market is."

Callejas is promoting the integration of Central America with the Caribbean Common Market so that the two may seek the opportunity being offered by the free trade zone of North America.

Referring to the challenges that Latin America must face to stop living in the past, Callejas said that in the short term it is of priority importance to "guarantee democracy with political actions, and then to adopt economic measures that are to include social considerations."

The president noted that the Latin American countries have realized that they must prepare for the year 2000 and "are firmly making decisions that involve radical changes in fragile, weakened, paternalistic, subsidized, centralized, and obsolete societies."

Callejas believes that with the implementation of economic measures, Latin America will give a qualitative and quantitative step into the future. He warned, however, that the countries that do not make these changes will remain stuck in the crisis.

The president added: "A firm hand must lead the transformation without being concerned about the popularity or unpopularity of the changes. The leaders should be wondering whether the changes are appropriate or not."

Callejas believes that "Mexico has a big commitment to the American Continent" and that at the Guadalajara meeting it will become evident that a new generation of Latin American presidents is prepared to face the risks that the transformations represent "to incorporate their countries into the single option that today's world offers."

Fidel Castro's presence in Guadalajara will not bother Callejas because domestic and sovereign decisions of the Cuban people will eventually create modern alternatives. Callejas noted: "Anyone struggling against the current will not survive economically or politically. The world is democratic, it is for free markets, for pluralism, and this is the way it is whether we like it or not."

Callejas will meet in August with Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, Mexican President Carlos Salinas, and Belizean Prime Minister George Price to pursue his objectives.

Nicaragua

Foreign Minister on Verification of Missiles

PA1107163791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0127 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Managua, 10 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus said today that the verification of all the Soviet "missiles" possessed by the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) was done at the request of Nicaragua and not the Salvadoran authorities.

Last 5 July, the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) verified in one of the weapons storage centers in Nicaragua that the 499 surface-to-air missiles attributed to the EPS "were accounted for."

On that occasion, the Nicaraguan press said that Army officers had shown ONUCA the sophisticated weapons at the request of the Salvadoran Government.

Dreyfus insisted that the verification was done because the Salvadoran press "was publishing lies" and saying that the EPS had made new deliveries of "missiles" to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

"We wanted to make it very clear that it is false that missiles have been sent from Nicaragua to the guerrillas (of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Army) and thus put an end to the rumors that our country is to be blamed for everything," the foreign minister said.

Text of Government, Community Movement Pact

PA1107154591 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Jul 91 p9

["Full text" of the agreement between the Government and the Nicaraguan Community Movement, issued in Managua on 3 July]

[Text]

Agreements

Deputy Presidency Minister Antonio Ibarra Rojas, Jose Antonio Alvarado, director of the Nicaraguan Housing Bank [Banco Nicaraguense de Vivienda], Bavinic, Constantino Cespedes, Construction and Transportation Ministry general secretary, and National Community Movement representatives: Father Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan Community Movement national coordinator; Managua council woman Commander Monica Baltodano; Mario Norguera, member of the national executive commission and housing commission director in Managua; and Domingo Sanchez, member of the national executive commission and director of the national housing commission, gathered at the presidential palace in Managua at 1800 on 3 July, in the spirit of contributing to peace, the country's social and economic stability, and restoring the security of the people of Managua who are affected by the legal status of their houses and lots, and after analyzing and discussing the current problems, agreed on the following:

Whereas

First: That the Nicaraguan Community Movement shares the commitment with the Presidency to search for agreements that contribute to and strengthen the national concerted agreement between the national salvation government and all sectors of society. These agreements are aimed at forging reconciliation among all Nicaraguans, building democracy and peace, and overcoming the overall crisis in the country, something that necessarily entails the legalization of lots and houses legitimately owned or occupied under the authority of the Managua settlers' law without any property deeds.

Second: That the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro government promised to resolve, in an urgent manner and with the greatest interest, the housing problem in Nicaragua and to develop a far-reaching housing program under favorable payment terms, in urban and rural areas, preferably using local construction materials to foster private and state investment under conditions that will make decent and comfortable housing available to all economic sectors while ensuring that the housing contributes to the beauty of urban areas.

Third: That the transition protocol recognizes that the laws apply to all Nicaraguans, and that Article 64 of the Constitution mentions the right to a decent, comfortable, and safe home, which guarantees family privacy, and that, in line with the aforementioned protocol, the government expressed its will to include urban residents in the promises made to peasants, namely, that land titles will be immediately granted to those who own land in accordance to the law and can prove with documents or any other means allowed by the law that they occupied or were assigned lots or housing from the government before 25 February 1990.

Fourth: That it is the will of the Presidency to provide peace and security to the Nicaraguan families who were assigned urban properties by the state, based on the existing legal order, but whose properties have not yet been duly recorded and registered. In addition, the government is willing to resolve any future litigation regarding urban properties assigned by the state based on the current laws and by paying compensation to the legitimate and previous owners based on the principles already established in the government program in Articles 4 and 5 of Chapter 4 of said program.

Fifth: That in the search to restructure the use of the land in Managua, according to the master development plan for Managua, which chiefly pertains to matters dealing with the city's midtown area, the Presidency has already drafted reconstruction programs; the plan calls for the resettlement and or restructuring of unplanned neighborhoods that have arisen in nonresidential areas. In addition and considering that the plan includes the reconstruction of Managua's urban area, the government reaffirms its commitment to give its residents the basic infrastructure and indispensable conditions that ensure beauty, recreation, and relaxation. In addition, it will guarantee the people who are transferred from the unplanned settlements or the urban area that they will be relocated to new residential sectors where they will be able to enjoy an efficient mass transit service as well as private transportation and access to job centers.

Sixth: That the central objective of the the Nicaraguan Community Movement is to enhance the welfare of the community and that it has worked particularly hard to find a solution to the problem of the legalization of lots and houses in favor of the tenants, objectives that fall within its commitment to defend the interests of the nation.

Seventh: That the housing policy falls within the purview of the executive branch, and in view of the government's interest, based on articles 38 of the laws on municipalities and 177, first paragraph, and 179 of the Constitution, it has decided to promote and follow-up on the implementation of said housing policy.

Therefore, they resolve:

A. To immediately begin legally registering the lots and houses occupied, or assigned, prior to 25 February 1990 that residents of Managua have lawfully received as property.

B. Due to the urgent need to resolve the title deed problem of war victims, especially that of mothers, widows, the disabled, the orphans, of both the fighters of the Nicaraguan Resistance and the national Army and police, the Presidency commits itself to give priority attention to these title deed cases through the mechanisms to be established by the mixed commission mentioned further on in this document.

C. The Nicaraguan Community Movement commits itself to supporting the Presidency in the task of organizing the townspeople to facilitate the field work and other work and that is required to speed up the title deed process.

D. The Nicaraguan Community Movement commits itself to supporting the Presidency with plans for normalizing, based on the master plan for the development of Managua, the situation of the improvised settlements that have emerged in the capital up to the day this agreement is signed. This support will be given having in mind the

search for improving the social and economic situation of the people of those settlements in the fields of basic services, transport, and access to employment sources.

E. The Nicaraguan Community Movement commits itself to cooperating with the Presidency in the task of implementing the Managua urban development plans, including those aspects related to the use of the land, in the task of finding the best housing areas taking into consideration all adequate measures, and all this without harming low-income groups that may need settlements having basic services such as health and transport services, and access to employment sources.

F. The Nicaraguan Community Movement commits itself to supporting the government effort aimed at securing foreign resources in favor of house construction programs of social interest that should help find an integral solution to the housing problem in the country.

G. The government commits itself to financing topographic, urbanistic, and lot demarcation analyses as well as real estate inventories and all the supplies necessary for the expeditious issuing of title deeds. The government will request a 1991 budget increase to cover these expenditures.

H. The Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan Community Movement agree to respect the people's rights to make requests and to protest as well as the fundamental principle that "the rights of a person end where the rights of others begin, for the sake of the security of all and because common well-being requires this," as the Nicaraguan Constitution states. This means that protests and requests cannot be viewed as the right to seize roads, work centers, or other people's property.

On the Procedure

Therefore, and seeking to guarantee the implementation of these agreements, the parties agree to comprise a mixed negotiation, inter-institutional, and permanent commission among the government's organizations dealing with housing policies, the Nicaraguan Community Movement, and other groups interested in the housing problem, which participate in the economic and social concertation.

The mixed negotiation, inter-institutional, and permanent commission will have several functions, including the following:

1. Prepare a joint work plan which guarantees the process for the issuance of ownership titles approved by the presidency.

2. Immediately start the issuance of ownership titles for the Bavinic lots and houses that have had the necessary surveys—topographic and others—and whose process should be concluded according to the schedule established by the commission.

3. Also, the commission will supervise the delivery of ownership titles from all the government organizations involved and the process should conclude according to the schedule established by the commission.

4. Equally solve the problem of the spontaneous settlements and real estate developments which may arise in the future, seeking to support the efforts exerted by the Presidency of the Republic to normalize the residence of said settlers, taking into consideration the master plan for the capital's development and the plans and programs to rationally use urban land in Managua.

5. The commission will strive to support the policy implemented by the government of the Republic to decongest the city of Managua and it will support the state's decentralization policies to transfer functions and institutions located in the capital, to benefit other cities in the country, particularly the priority area on the national level, which is comprised of regions I, V, and VI of Nicaragua.

The commission will support the efforts exerted by the government of the Republic to discourage the continuous rural immigration to urban centers and to support the policy to reinsert productive rural towns in the economy's agrarian and livestock sector.

6. The mixed negotiation, inter-institutional, and permanent commission must immediately start to hold plenary meetings at least once every 15 days to carry out its supervisory role and effectively implement all the functions and commitments outlined in this agreement. The commission will also be able to create mixed sub- commissions to support and step up all the process.

In testimony of this, we will sign the two copies of the document which are of the same tenor. Dr. Antonio Ybarra Rojas, Presidency Deputy Minister; Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, National Coordinator of the Nicaraguan Community Movement; Dr. Jose Antonio Alvarado, Executive Director, Nicaraguan Housing Bank; Commander Monica Baltodano, Managua Council Member Engineer Constantino Cespedes, General Secretary Executive Ministry of Construction and Transportation Mr. Mario Noguera, Member of the National Executive Commission and Head of the Housing Commission for Managua. Mr. Domingo Sanchez, Member National Executive Commission and head of National Housing Commission

Panama

Minister on Destabilizing Public Order Attempts

PA1107150791 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Jul 91 p 1A

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez]

[Text] Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, has said a climate favorable to investments in the country will not exist as long as attempts to destabilize public order and the democratic process persist, which is why he proposed that the authorities take a "strong hand."

Ford, who attended the U.S. Southern Command's Change of Command ceremony at Clayton, said that attacking the elected regime "is a serious" matter and that his government "has the constitutional duty" to guarantee the life, dignity, and property of citizens.

The vice president warned that the Public Force's inability to deal with recent conspiracies, plots, and attacks is not caused by its "inefficiency" but by the "social maladjustment" of sectors of troublemakers that must be eradicated.

Although he admitted to not having detailed information from the intelligence entities directed by the Government and Justice Ministry and the Attorney General's Office, he does know that the people want "justice and a strong hand against delinquents."

On the matter of the slow pace in activating the investment budget, he replied "bureaucratic red tape" and not Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles is to blame for the delays.

"I have been the strongest critic of the government's inability to implement its national budget," Ford noted. He added that the government has the money and knows which projects are authorized, but they are not implemented "because of an evident ineptness."

When asked about the stance taken by the National Central Organization of Panamanian Workers (CNTP) against the inclusion of Panama into a generalized preferential system, he replied that he respects its opinion, but "people with jobs must not forget the unemployed."

He stressed he is not antiunion and does not persecute organized workers, but their "scare" tactics curb foreign and national investments in Panama.

Crime Committee Reports on 'Destablization Plot'

PA1107153491 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1742 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] In its first monthly meeting, which was held at the office of Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] Director Osvaldo Fernandez, the Committee Against Crime this morning reported to the local newspapers on the investigations being conducted on the attack on the radio station KW Continente, the probable attack on the president of the Republic's grandson, and the alleged subversive plots to overthrow the government.

According to the PTJ director, all of these actions are part of a psychological destabilization plot to create unrest in the country. He did not say, however, what he thinks is the origin of these actions.

[Begin Fernandez recording] Personally speaking, I think that, more than anything else, a psychological destabilization is taking place in Panama. Everyone speaks of subversive groups, but we have not seen them. People speak of guerrillas, but we have not seen them. For instance, the attack on KW Continente might have been perpetrated by a single person. The weapon used was a fragmentation grenade, which, according to the investigations, was hurled by a person on foot and walking. This is indicated by the place where the grenade fuse was found. A vehicle could not have been used. The device could not have been fired by a grenade launcher, either. Otherwise the damage would have been greater. If 10 people out of a population of 2.5 million spread rumors, detonate grenades, and fire into the air, they are going to destabilize the country. [end recording]

According to Assistant Prosecutor Herrera Moran, these terrorist actions bear no relationship to any subversive movement. Speaking about the detention of opposition leader Juan McKenzie, Herrera said this:

[Begin Herrera recording] In the files, there are some details that incriminate McKenzie but which we cannot disclose for the time being. Nevertheless, and according to the air service that flies to Puerto Obaldia, he visited the place several times. He omitted this information during his questioning, however. In addition, he had in his possession camouflage uniforms of the defunct Panama Defense Forces, he posed as a Public Force member, and he visited Arcandi on the border with Colombia. There are several other details which I cannot reveal now, but that do constitute evidence against him. [end recording]

PTJ Deputy Director Jaime Abad, referring to the alleged recent attack on President Endara's grandson, said the following:

[Begin Abad recording] For more than three hours, the ballistics team carefully looked for the bullet, but could not find any. We went back very early the next morning and searched even more carefully for the empty cartridge in the area, but we could not find the bullet or the cartridge. [end recording]

Attorney General on Actions To Create Disorder

PA1107161291 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1205 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Recorded passages winth quotation marks]

[Text] Asked whether the criminal attack on KW Continente radio station might unleash a wave of terrorism in the country, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said: Not exactly, because these attacks have been perpetrated by people trained to damage property only, not persons.

[Cruz] "I do not think attacks like this one will unleash a wave of terrorism. The perpetrators are trained and equipped to cause this kind of damage. I think their intention, at least for the time being, is not to harm people but to create unrest and disturb public order."

Although the names of several people living in Panama have been mentioned as the perpetrators of these terrorist actions and some living in Mexico have been mentioned as plotters against the government, no one has been arrested.

[Cruz] "We cannot arrest a person just because his name was mentioned by someone else, even members of the legislative or executive branch. We must take into consideration that we live in a state of law. In our government, the state agencies have separate functions.

[Reporter] "Can the Public Ministry not carry out those arrests ex officio, considering ...

[Cruz, interrupting] "Investigations are being conducted by the police and the Attorney General's Office, but we can only issue an arrest warrant if there is specific evidence."

We asked the attorney general if, in view of the most recent terrorist actions in the country, the existence of the M-20 Movement can be dismissed.

[Cruz] "I think the name is the least important. What really counts is the existence of such a group."

Regarding former Lieutenant Colonel Rafael Cedeno, who has not yet appeared at the Attorney General's Office, Cruz said that the man's whereabouts is in the process of being determined, but that, as soon as the judge canceled Cedeno's bail, the former officer would be declared a fugitive and the amount of his bail would be transferred to the public treasury.

[Cruz] "We have asked the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] and the National Police to find Cedeno. We are waiting for this to happen. As soon as the judge cancels Cedeno's bail, he will be declared a fugitive and the amount of his bail will be transferred to the public treasury."

Regarding Cuban journalist Luis Manuel Martinez, Cruz had this to say:

[Cruz] "Something similar is happening with Martinez. The PTJ and the National Police surely have instructions for locating him."

Cedeno Reportedly Flees Country

PA1107180891 Panama City LA CRONICA in Spanish 10-17 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Colonel Rafael (Rafito) Cedeno has been far away from Panama for several days, according to a person who called this newspaper and refused to give a name.

The person said that "Rafito" Cedeno, who was a close associate of General Noriega and chief of the Panama Defense Forces G-2 at the time of his arrest, left the country by way of the Marcos Gelabert Airport in Panama City.

Cedeno was released on bail on the same day Col. Marcos Justines was freed. Justines was arrested again and taken to Renacer Jail after 12 hours of questioning at an assistant district attorney's office.

Columnist on Call for Attorney General To Resign

PA1107043391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 9 Jul 91 p 4A

['Hidden Truths' column by Tomas A. Cabal: "The Resignation of Rogelio Cruz"]

[Text] After the exclusive statements by Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, chief of the Cali Cartel, to TIME magazine admitting that he laundered millions of dollars at the First Inter-Americas Bank—a Panamanian bank that belongs to him—we do not understand why the president of the Republic has not yet demanded the resignation of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

Mr. Cruz has requested, though an intermediary, that I give him copies of the recordings of radio talk show "Voices of the Street," which airs daily over CMQ radio station. He is reportedly concerned over my revelations that President Endara had asked him to resign.

To facilitate the investigation being conducted by the attorney general, I will share with him and you, my dear readers, the reports received from presidential advisers who had access to the information.

Some months ago, the two vice presidents met with the president to agree on the resignation of Rogelio Cruz. The consensus expressed by the president was, and I quote: "Rogelio [Cruz] is politically washed up and is damaging my image." The president agreed to request the resignation of Cruz and did so in a meeting held four months ago. Cruz refused, saying that he planned to complete his five-year term; he was aware of the fact that a legal oversight mentioned by the Supreme Court would not allow the president to fire him from his post.

Since that time, the president has not insisted on this matter, because he is concerned about the struggle between First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon and his party, the Christian Democratic Party.

However, key presidential advisers are aware of the enormous political damage being done by Rogelio Cruz to the administration of the president. Therefore, the Arnulfist Party is preparing to hold its annual convention on 18 August.

Concerned over the possibility that the support for the president may erode or that he is unable to retain control over the party, friends and advisers of the presidents are determined to obtain the resignation of the attorney general before the Arnulfist Party convention is held.

The scandal created by the release on bail of former Colonels Justines and Cedeno confirmed, in the minds of the presidential advisers, the need to replace Attorney General Cruz as soon as possible.

Sources reported that Cruz has been offered the post of ambassador to Switzerland, with the promise that he will not be politically persecuted if he agrees to resign voluntarily. Other advisers have expressed their concern over the information already obtained by Cruz during his numerous investigations, enabling the attorney general to learn many secrets and small sins of the current leaders. This is the case with Comptroller General Ruben Carles, who is fearful that Cruz may get his hands on the audit of the $10.7 million handled by [former President] Eric Delvalle while in exile.

Our sources at the Palace of the Herons [presidential palace] reported that President Endara is not afraid of Cruz. However, they added, he has delayed the signing of a new law that will allow the solicitor general to investigate the attorney general, hoping that Cruz decides that the path to his personal and national tranquility goes by the Panamanian Embassy in Switzerland.

IRHE Interrupts Power to Radio Soberana

PA1107200291 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] The radio broadcast of the Legislative Assembly's special session was halted when Gonzalo Cordoba, the director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE), decided to interrupt electrical power to Radio Soberana Civilista.

Soberana Civilista is the main broadcast station of the legislative debates to other affiliated stations in the interior of Panama. However, IRHE decided to interrupt the supply of electricity to this station because station owner Alonso "Bucho" Pinzon refuses to accept responsibility for a debt incurred by [former station owner] Luis Gaspar "Toty" Suarez.

The Legislative Assembly's regulations, which are the law of the land, obliges the government to broadcast the Legislative Assembly's plenary sessions nationally. Yesterday's debate had to be broadcast over an FM radio station.

President Guillermo Endara called the members of the Legislative Assembly to special session to discuss the MLAT [Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement] with the United States, which began on 8 July.

During the second MLAT debate on 10 July, the Justo Arosemena Palace was twice left without electricity for several minutes and the legislators were forced to interrupt their debates.

Radio Soberana Civilista's owner Alonso Pinzon called the IRHE director "an arrogant, ill-mannered, despotic madman" who does not accept reasoning and does not understand how important it is for the government to have the MLAT sessions broadcast.

Pinzon considers Cordoba's decision to suspend power to the radio station "immediate retaliation" because the station's "El Civilista" newscast had announced solidarity with Editora Panama America. IRHE is presently attempting to collect on the electricity bill for Editora Renovacion (ERSA) from Editora Panama America.

"This is a dirty trick by Gonzalo Cordoba" against a radio station that has served the new democratic administration virtually for free, Alonso Pinzon asserted.

Pinzon estimated that IRHE should collect the more than 20,000 balboas from Luis Gaspar "Toty" Suarez instead of trying to get Radio Soberana Civilista to pay the debt.

The radio station owner announced that "El Civilista" newscast will continue to broadcast over the FM frequency of Radio Stereo Selecta until the situation with IRHE is resolved.

Drug Investigations on Colon Province Firms

PA1107145691 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jul 91 p 1A

[Reported by Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has announced that his office will investigate the Colon Free Zone firms that sponsor the entry of large drug shipments to Panama. He added that the investigation could lead to the closing down of several firms in the commercial sector of Colon Province.

Cruz said the Attorney General's Office "is going to hold an in-depth investigation and, if necessary, will request the closure of firms and land transporation services" used to perpetrate these crimes.

The official explained that drugs enter the Free Zone inside equipment or merchandise. Later on, with the complicity or good will of truck drivers, it is transferred through Central America by land.

Cruz highlighted the General Customs Directorate's [Direccion General de Aduanas] impoundment of 294 kg of cocaine—valued at $30 million—in Paso Canoa on 6 July, and said it was evident that it was not the first time a drug shipment of this type was made.

Cruz said, "Drugs have been passing through our Paso Canoa border with Costa Rica and our authorities have not even been aware of it."

The attorney general asserted that businessmen and truck drivers who transfer merchandise from the Colon commercial sector to Panama or foreign countries must take strict control measures to stop firms from being used to hide and transfer drugs.

The attorney general also warned that the Colon Free Zone's administrators, as the people in charge of the institution, must observe strict security measures to prevent further cocaine shipments from being brought into the Free Zone.

Cruz disclosed that so far a firm called "Flipper International" has been linked to the transfer of the 294 kg of cocaine that was seized by customs officials at the border. An investigation is currently under way to establish who the firm's owner is or who is in charge.

He added that questioning of the two people captured with the merchandise has revealed that Ramiro Soto is the person who apparently purchased the merchandise and brought it into the Free Zone inside refrigerators for later shipment to Guatemala.

Cruz said that customs officials in Chiriqui, Colon, and Panama have pointed out that the documents that allowed the merchandise to exit the Free Zone had been tampered with. They bore the name of an nonexistent firm and the code of an existing one.

He added that a false Free Zone employee's name and a false code had been used to allow the merchandise to be taken out. Cruz said that new arrests are expected over the weekend, and that other efforts are under way in the Colon area.

Argentina

Uruguay's Lacalle Disagrees With Menem's Remarks

PY1107234991 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1805 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jul (NA)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera said at noon today that he will not allow Uruguayan banks "to become another link in the evil chain of drug trafficking." He also admitted that if the statements made by President Carlos Menem on the subject "are understood the way he said them, we are not satisfied with them."

Lacalle said that as soon as he learned about President Menem's statement, he called him on the phone to express his disagreement "because we did not want our banks to be mentioned as institutions that are primarily involved in laundering drug money."

During a news conference at the Government House press room, Lacalle made these remarks after the signing of a joint declaration with President Menem in which they expressed their satisfaction with the integration agreements.

Regarding the telephone conversation with Menem, Lacalle said: "It was just a sincere phone call to tell him that we were not satisfied with his statements the way we understood them. That was all."

Lacalle pointed out that when this matter is mentioned, "Uruguay does not have to take a hint because we have a worthy banking system and a very specific legal formula to disclose secret accounts as soon as it is necessary."

Lacalle stressed that when he said he will not allow banks to become another link in the drug trafficking chain, the alleged drug traffickers "did not massively withdraw" their funds. He added that if banks were involved in this affair (alluding to the laundering of drug money), there should have been a massive withdrawal of funds.

Asked about the agreements signed today with President Menem on the integration of the two countries, Lacalle said the construction of a bridge between Buenos Aires and Colonia was "a massive task." The two presidents proposed the project because it "will play a major role in the subregional integration process."

Croat Immigrants Join Croatian National Guard

LD1107203891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1913 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, July 11 (TANJUG)—The Argentinian daily CLARIN claims that a group of twenty or so Argentinians of Croatian origin left these days for Zagreb, the capital of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, and joined the Croatian National Guard.

According to the daily, children of Croat immigrants, who number around 150,000 in Argentina, are arriving in Croatia "at the invitation of the republic's defence minister who recently visited Buenos Aires."

The daily carries a statement by an Argentinian Croat who wished to remain anonymous and who said that he was prepared to fight for Croatia "as long as necessary."

The man said he was not a mercenary but admitted that he was receiving 2,000 German marks per month for his service in the land of his ancestors.

Iraqi Merchant Sailors Reportedly Seek Asylum

PY1107154491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1504 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] La Plata, 11 Jul (TELAM) — National River Police sources have reported that the captain of a Cypriot merchant vessel that is currently anchored in the roadstead outside the port of La Plata has asked Argentine authorities for asylum for seven crewmen, who are of Iraqi nationality.

The bulk carrier [two preceding words in English] Sea Queen arrived in the estuary of the River Plate, with the Santa Fe Province port of San Lorenzo as its final destination, to load grain for Iran, but it has interrupted its trip to resolve the situation of the Iraqis.

When the intention of the Iraqis was reported over the ship's radio, the vessel was detoured to the local maritime station where it was boarded by personnel of the National River Police late on 10 July. The arrival of personnel from the Immigration and Health Departments is now expected.

No details have been learned about the decision of the Iraqi sailors, who boarded the Sea Queen in an Iranian port to where they had fled from the government of Saddam Husayn.

Bolivia

Possibility of Joining Mercosur Stressed

PY1107160091 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Gustavo Fernandez, minister of the Presidency, has said that there is a de facto link between Bolivia and the Common Market of the South, Mercosur, which through the political will of its members, can be consolidated with Bolivia's official integration to the regional accord in the near future.

Fernandez accompanied Bolivian President Paz Zamora during his brief visit to Tucuman, where the Argentine, Uruguayan and Paraguayan presidents considered the need [words indistinct] and to support the initiative designed to join Bolivia and Chile to Mercosur.

Fernandez said that he noted a decisive will by the presidents of the Mercosur member countries to quickly find ways to link Bolivia to the organization.

He added that Bolivia is linked with Mercosur in three areas: the electricity project, the Parana-Paraguay waterway [words indistinct] [recorded passage indistinct]

Fernandez said: There are some aspects that have to be analyzed by Mercosur member countries and by Bolivia to evaluate the possibility that Bolivia may join the Mercosur.

In this regard, he noted the situation of the common external tariff and customs tariffs reductions.

* Manufacturing Industry Shows Strong Growth

91SM0386A La Paz HOY in Spanish 14 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] The manufacturing industry experienced major growth during the first quarter of this year, similar to that of the entire previous fiscal year and 50 percent higher than that of 1989, stated Minister of Industry and Trade Guido Cespedes Argandona.

He explained that macroeconomic indicators provide information about the country's economic performance. One of them is the index of physical volume of manufacturing production, which was 4.4 percent. This figure is so significant that it has been mentioned by various organizations specializing in industrial economics.

The minister of industry and trade indicated that this increase is similar to that achieved for the entire previous fiscal year, when the growth rate was 4.3 percent.

When asked about figures released by private sources which indicated that the growth rate would be lower, he said that these results are based on a partial sample and that they are not national in scope, as not all industries are included in them.

Cespedes emphasized that the manufacturing industry has brought about a major achievement that will also have an impact on overall economic growth in the country.

Finally, he stressed that the government, through his office, fully intends to support the country's productive sectors. For this purpose it has introduced major legislation such as the Investment Law, the Hydrocarbons Law, and the creation of free industrial zones, free trade zones, and deposit terminals.

* Agricultural Production in 1990 Up 50 Percent

91SM0386D La Paz HOY in Spanish 14 Jun 91 p 5

[Text] Thanks to the expansion of arable land in the country by 10 percent and a growth in farm production of more than 50 percent in the 1990 agricultural year, this sector will account for approximately 16 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product], according to Waldo Cerruto, director of the National Statistics Institute (INE).

It should be noted that during the 1989 agricultural year, production fell by more than 570 metric tons below the 1988 total. In fact, while arable land amounted to 1,188,454 hectares in 1988, a total of 5,542,700 metric tons was produced. In 1989, with a total of only 1,153,009 hectares under cultivation, production dropped to 4,971,656 metric tons. The cause of the drop in production that year was the drought that affected vast parts of the country.

Fortunately, by 1990 the amount of land being farmed rose to 1,299,375 hectares, and production grew to 6,033,044 metric tons, according to figures complied by the National Agriculture-Livestock Survey (ENA).

The results of the 1990 ENA, compiled by the National Statistics Institute with the help of the USAID [U.S. Agency for International Development]/B program through PL-480, were released last Wednesday at a seminar held for that purpose.

During the seminar, the technical team that worked on the survey, led by Rene Escobar, explained the methodology of the survey, the sample design, the operations, and the data processing, as well as the results obtained.

INE Director Waldo Cerruto stated that between 1985 and 1988 there was no statistical information on farm activity. The ENA-90 has filled that void by consolidating the second phase of the National Agriculture-Livestock Census. He said that every year information will continue to be gathered in this sector.

He added that the production figures obtained in the ENA-90 reflect the current structure of the agriculture-livestock sector, and by using them planners and decision-makers will be able to improve systems of production, distribution, and marketing of farm products. They will also be able to raise levels of nutrition and living conditions among rural producers.

Here is the chart showing the area under cultivation and total production for the last three years, by product group.

Bolivia: Arable Land and Production, by Year and Product Group

Product Group	1988		1989		1990	
	Area (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area (hectares)	Production (metric tons)	Area (hectares)	Production (metric tons)
Total	1,288,464	5,542,700	1,155,089	4,971,656	1,299,075	6,090,044
Grains	587,019	835,594	538,772	726,590	575,454	670,955
Stimulants	33,163	28,870	33,572	28,740	33,351	23,708
Fruits	71,883	837,472	72,684	638,980	72,739	600,965
Vegetables	75,274	248,266	69,092	213,459	76,023	228,107
Industrial	157,747	2,547,235	174,154	1,184,764	266,077	3,266,280
Tubers	176,395	957,512	175,740	899,598	186,786	973,665
Fodder	86,662	286,889	90,651	278,529	88,537	283,266
Others	321	862	374	995	408	1,098

Source: National Statistics Institute —National Agriculture-Livestock Survey 1988 —National Agriculture-Livestock Survey 1990

* Geological Research With PRC Proposed

91SM0386C La Paz HOY in Spanish 7 Jun 91 p 5

[Text] China is looking into the possibility of cooperating with Bolivia on basic geological research and on conducting a new aerial survey to map the principal regions of the country.

A mission made up of Zhang Peng Yuan, director of China's Department of Geology and Mineral Resources; Ilueng Keyi, a gold expert from the Geology Department; and Qiu Xiaanghua, chief of the department, is now in the country for that purpose.

The members of the mission, accompanied by Ambassador Xie Rumao, visited Mining Minister Walter Soriano to inform him of China's interest in working together with Bolivia in the area of mining.

On that occasion, Soriano indicated that this cooperation between Bolivia and China will open up possibilities for major Chinese companies to invest in mining.

The mission's main objectives are to conduct an in-depth study of the geological work that is taking place in Bolivia and to discuss projects in the mining sector for mineral prospecting and exploration.

If points of agreement are found, an accord can be drawn up in the form of a letter of intent. It would be formalized with a visit by Bolivian experts to Beijing in August of this year, when the two governments would sign a formal pact.

The Bolivian mission is made up of Marcelo Claure, director of the Bolivian Geological Service (Geobol); Oscar Siles Claure, chief of the planning unit; Heberto Perez, chief of the Department of Regional Geology; Eduardo Soria, chief of Project P-3 (the evaluation of mineral resources in the Altiplano and eastern mountain ranges); Alfonso Medina, chief of Project P-7 (prospecting and exploration for basic and precious minerals); and Franz Tavera, chief of Project P-11 (research on gold and silver resources contained in volcanic rock).

* Zinc Replaces Tin as Leading Mineral Export

91SM0386B La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] Since 1989, tin has been replaced by zinc as Bolivia's number-one mineral export in terms of total value. Medium-scale mining companies contributed the greatest volume to this process.

Statistical data compiled by the Mining Ministry indicate that in 1989, overall tin exports amounted to $126.5 million, while zinc exports were recorded at $132.2 million.

Last year tin exports reached $103.6 million, but zinc surpassed that figure with $146.4 million.

The state, private, and cooperative sectors were all included in the statistics.

Gold

Lorgio Ruiz, technical undersecretary at the Mining Ministry, explained that the data reveal that Bolivian production amounts to about 12 tons a year, while only 5 tons is "salvaged."

In 1989, production totaled 3.6 tons, and a year later it climbed to 5.2 tons. In monetary terms, the total was $44.4 million, 11 percent of all mineral exports. In 1990, this figure rose to $65.2 million, 17 percent of the total.

Overlaps

Ruiz, currently a mining consultant, indicated that the modern system that will be applied is important in order to avoid overlapping mining concessions and eliminate the possibility of new litigation.

He explained that last fiscal year it was decided to draw up a new register. For this purpose, the Mining Property Register Technical Service was established and is now operating under the overall program aimed at strengthening the mining sector.

* Bank Deposits Reflect Increased Confidence

91SM0386E La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] During the first five months of this year, the public increased its deposits in the country's commercial banks by an average of $1 million a day. During those 150 days, bank deposits rose by $157 million.

A report by the General Superintendency of Banks states that as of the end of last month, bank deposits totaled $955.1 million. In December of last year that figure was $797.4 million.

It goes on to say that so far this year, commercial banks have had positive results. They were able to attract considerably more money from the public. During the first six months of last year, deposits grew by $108 million.

Along these lines, adds the report, there has been an increase in investments (loans) of the banks' own funds, accompanied by a marked decline in the use of Central Bank (BCB) funds obtained from refinancing.

The deposited funds were used primarily to increase the portfolio of internal-fund loans and short-term investments, such as BCB certificates of deposit, and to increase the legal reserve requirement.

With regard to the loans extended by the banks in their own funds, the report indicates that the total grew from $687 million in December of last year to $816.3 million at the end of May, an increase of 18.3 percent.

Brazil

Japanese Red Army Suspect in JAL Bomb Case

PY1207022891 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The Japanese Red Army guerrilla group may be responsible for the bomb found in baggage to be loaded on a Japan Airlines [JAL] Boeing jet at the Sao Paulo international airport.

Federal Police received from Interpol today a complete dossier of the terrorist group. This extreme leftist group has carried out three major attacks against airplanes and airports. One of the attacks occurred in 1975 when a JAL jet was hijacked. [passage omitted]

Federal Police experts spent the day examining the pieces of the bomb. They came to the conclusion that almost all the bomb's parts and the clock are Brazilian made. The sheets of Brazilian newspapers and the paper used for car washers that wrapped the bomb are helping in the investigation. [passage omitted]

Takaaki Iguchi, the owner of the suitcase where the bomb was found, has been released by police. He will leave for Tokyo tomorrow.

* Eco-92 Head on Rio Conference, Deforestation

91SM0360A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 29 May 91 pp 7-9

[Interview with Maurice Frederick Strong, secretary general of Eco-92, by Euripedes Alcantara; place and date not given; first three paragraphs are VEJA introduction]

[Text] The secretary general of Eco-92 says that if man does not change the way he relates to nature, ecological disaster will be inevitable.

Since he was a child, Canadian Maurice Frederick Strong, 62, has taken nature seriously—what has changed is his way of looking at it. In Oak Lake, his hometown in Manitoba Province—a rural prairieland in the center of Canada—young Maurice was already indignant at the people who were polluting his village, being certain that the planet was a sanctuary to be respected. In 1972, after becoming wealthy dealing in petroleum, Strong was secretary general of the Conference on the Environment and Man, which was held in Stockholm by the United Nations (UNO). That meeting, which came to be known as "Woodstockholm" in a reference to the famous rock festival called Woodstock, wound up being dominated by environmental activists, who at the time were identified with hippies—a tendency that it took years to dispel.

Strong, who has never since abandoned his environmental preaching, is now preparing—again as secretary general—for the Second UN Conference on the Environment and Development, which Rio de Janeiro will host in June of next year. The puddle jumper of 1972 has become a jumbo jet that is going to make history by bringing together an unprecedented number of chiefs of state and heads of the world's biggest companies. With no formal academic training but with honorary degrees from 26 of the planet's top universities, Strong has exchanged his religious feeling regarding nature for a more pragmatic view of ecological questions. "What is at stake is not the well-being of plants and animals, but the global economy and the survival of the species and of civilization. The conference is our last chance to save the planet from barbarism," says Strong, who is married and the father of four. One of the few high officials in the United Nations who does not speak French, Strong is the only one who speaks Inupik, the language of the Eskimos with whom he spent two years as an adolescent, and Swahili, the language of the African natives of Kenya, among whom he also lived.

[Alcantara] What kind of impact is Eco-92 likely to have as far as improving the planet's environmental conditions is concerned?

[Strong] It is a rare opportunity for planet earth. I would say, without exaggerating, that it is the world's last chance to get off the path to self-destruction. Over the past two decades, there has been a lot of talk, and ecological awareness has increased, but the global environment has steadily deteriorated. The Rio conference is going to bring together the largest number of chiefs of state in the history of mankind and the heads of the most powerful companies in the world. They are all going to deal with a single topic: how to save the planet. They are going to make public commitments and sign the Charter of the Earth, a document of intentions on a global scale which should result in historic changes in the way man relates to nature.

[Alcantara] Rulers are usually good at talking but slow to take action. Doesn't that worry you?

[Strong] Many times that is exactly what happens. In this case, however, the scientific evidence that the planet is in danger is such that I don't see how the world's leaders can avoid taking specific action. They will have a unique chance, and if they fail, there will not be another opportunity.

[Alcantara] One complicating factor in this story is the fact that the chasm between poor and rich countries is widening. The wave of ecological concerns has made that gap even more obvious. The rich countries are successfully freeing themselves of the effects of pollution, while the inhabitants of the Third World are becoming increasingly entangled in ecological problems caused in most cases by the lack of money. Saving nature also involves combating poverty, does it not?

[Strong] Not only combating poverty but eradicating it from the planet. When you get right down to it, that is the objective of the conference. The rich countries have become aware that the earth constitutes a fragile and closed ecosystem and that pollution in the Third World affects everyone in the world. They have also come to realize that poverty generates pollutants and that tropical forests are often assaulted by destitute migrant settlers who have no choice except to cut and burn trees in order to

survive. I therefore believe that the rich countries are really going to commit themselves to the eradication of poverty in the Third World. Not out of charity, but because of the need to preserve the global environment on which everyone depends. The whole world would benefit from a Third World that does not pollute. So the whole world must help.

[Alcantara] Even so, that is a very optimistic viewpoint.

[Strong] It is optimistic but realistic, because we are living in a time of extreme didacticism in the world economy. Countries and companies are quickly learning that sustained development—that is, progress with a concern for nature—is not just an alternative path but the only economically viable means of staying in business. Setting up a factory that pollutes as little as possible is not an option that a businessman chooses just to please militant ecologists. The most competitive modern companies are "naturally" less polluting. They consume less energy, do not burn fossil fuels, and deal with synthetic materials that can be handled safely and cleanly. To enter into the competition, industrial parks in the Third World will also have to modernize, with the result that their factories will pollute less.

[Alcantara] Is ecology becoming too serious a matter to be left to ecologists?

[Strong] In a sense, yes. A country's minister of ecology is in fact its minister of economy. In companies, environmental matters are becoming increasingly linked to production. What is happening is that economic and ecological objectives are coinciding admirably. In the 1970's, businessmen approached ecological topics with some hostility. Installing filters in smokestacks, manufacturing less polluting automobiles, and treating the toxic waste from factories meant reducing the company's profitability and, consequently, its competitiveness. At the start of the 1980's, ecology was beginning to be more accepted, but largely because of external pressure from consumers. The environmental component has now been incorporated into the production process.

[Alcantara] What examples of this new reality could you mention?

[Strong] There are many examples of companies which were in shaky condition but which went through a modernization process in which they cleaned up their production processes and now exhibit enviable financial health precisely because they produce in a clean manner, consume less energy, and depend less on crude raw materials such as minerals. Japan, which is not yet a perfect country in environmental terms, is the most dramatic example of this. Japanese industry doubled in size in the course of the decade while reducing its energy consumption by 40 percent and practically banishing the discharge of polluting wastes into the air and water.

[Alcantara] But Japanese businessmen were forced to fit into that pattern of clean operations by some of the strictest environmental legislation in the world.

[Strong] True. Following the tragedy in Minamata Bay in the 1960's, when tons of mercury were dumped into the water with disastrous effects on the population, Japan passed severe laws punishing those abuses. That was what saved its industry. By adopting clean production processes, Japanese industry projected itself vigorously into the future and saved millions of dollars through the development of more modern and more economical equipment. At present, Sweden and Germany are closely following the same path. Wherever competitiveness in industry is sought, the technological solutions invariably also result in manufacturing processes less harmful to nature.

[Alcantara] Do you believe that Third-World countries such as Brazil have any chance of catching that streetcar?

[Strong] There is no other solution. They need to be helped by the rich countries in the Northern Hemisphere, but they can no longer insist on forms of development that are irresponsible toward nature. One of the strongest reasons for this is the fact that a polluting economy is always sluggish and produces expensive and uncompetitive products.

[Alcantara] Can it be said, then, that an automobile which causes less pollution is by definition easier and cheaper to produce than an old, fume-belching model?

[Strong] Ecology is going to control the business world in coming decades. The first one to discover that clean production methods are more economical is going to jump ahead of his competitors. The one who insists on old methods based on the abusive use of inputs will not have a chance in the market. Businessmen who arrive at that conclusion and invest in the modernization of their manufacturing facilities are being pleasantly surprised. In some branches of industry such as petrochemicals, for example, modernization can reduce overall production costs by up to 75 percent.

[Alcantara] What is your opinion of the so-called green GNP [gross national product]—the parallel accounting system for countries in which expenditures on ecological concerns are counted as wealth?

[Strong] It is a realistic way of measuring development, and its credibility is rising steadily. A country may believe it is growing and developing at any cost—even that of destroying its natural resources—but in fact it is not developing: it is destroying itself. It is good that there should be a universally accepted way of measuring progress that takes concern with the environment into account. The green GNP is an accounting system that is useful to the sustained development we advocate. That kind of development, like any other, must be the result of progress, create jobs, give businessmen profits, and be guided by the laws of the marketplace. But it must not be based on the old and dangerous concept that natural resources are inexhaustible.

[Alcantara] What is your evaluation of the planet's environmental situation at present? Are we really as bad off as it seems?

[Strong] We have almost reached the point of no return. If planet earth were a business, it would be on the verge of bankruptcy because it is squandering its natural resources, which are its capital, as though they were eternal. Those

resources are not renewable, and they are being treated as though they were. If the global economy continues to be treated in that fashion—if we persist on that path—life as we know it will jeopardized. Not only will progress be interrupted, but there will also be regression. At the conference in Rio de Janeiro, we will try to launch the world into a new era that will make profound economic change possible by preserving the environment while maintaining the rate of progress.

[Alcantara] Brazil has been accused of burning Amazonia down and being a potential source of global tragedy consisting of an excessive heating of the atmosphere—the so-called greenhouse effect. Don't you feel that too much is being expected of the poor countries when everyone knows that the biggest polluters are the developed countries?

[Strong] It is a fact that the largest quantities of polluting gases involved in the greenhouse effect are discharged into the atmosphere by the industrialized countries. It happens that those countries are already making a tremendous effort to contain those emissions, which are harmful to the atmosphere. The governments of those countries are taking unhesitating and resolute action to solve the problem. They are cleaning up their lakes and rivers and stopping polluters with severe legislation. In the Southern Hemisphere, there are good isolated experiences—one example being the Rio Doce Valley Company's Carajas Project in Brazil—but the keynote is still one of aggression on a large scale, especially with respect to tropical forests.

[Alcantara] Most of the harm being done to the tropical forest is the result of settlement in that region by migrants from the southern part of the country who were encouraged by the government, especially during the 1970's, to move there. Do you feel that the government could have foreseen back then what was going to happen?

[Strong] Any planner with good sense would know that Amazonia is not suitable for large-scale settlement. They should have worked out some solution other than that settlement plan for Amazonia. You cannot try to fix a social crisis by creating another—ecological—one.

[Alcantara] But now the settlers are there. They have had children and built towns, and they consider themselves permanent residents of the jungle. What should be done with them?

[Strong] There are two ways to tackle the problem. The first step would be to reduce the indiscriminate burning and felling of trees to a minimum by implementing an effective program of education and technical support regarding planting in the region. The second would be to create alternatives for working in a clean economy along more modern lines.

[Alcantara] Those two approaches would require inventiveness and commitment on the part of the government. From what we can see, both are lacking in Brazil, since the government is even considering the resumption of stock-raising subsidies in Amazonia.

[Strong] That would be an absurd mistake. First of all, because subsidies themselves are a symptom of poor economics in any part of the world, but also because the Brazilian Government would be persisting in the worst of all possible ways of occupying the Amazon forest, and that is stockraising. Brazil needs to offer alternatives for sustained development in the region, and I am certain that incentives and investments from the rich countries would not be lacking. The experience those countries have had with replacing polluting activities that are hostile to the environment with other, more modern activities is extremely positive. More jobs will be created and a future with broad horizons will open up in a region where there was previously nothing but a deplorable situation.

[Alcantara] The available scientific data on the planet's environmental health are sometimes inconclusive and even contradictory. Sometimes the hole in the ozone over Antarctica is there and sometimes it isn't, and there is no concrete proof that industrial gases are responsible for it. We read in the newspapers that the burning of fossil fuels is going to cause the catastrophic greenhouse effect on the planet. But then further along, we also read where another group of scientists says the situation is not as serious as all that. Whom is the layperson supposed to believe?

[Strong] I am not one of those who buy the theory that scientific evidence is still inconsistent and that it is necessary to wait for more data before taking action. That is nonsense. A person who has high blood pressure, shows an abnormal cholesterol level in his blood, lives a sedentary life, and smokes five packs of cigarettes a day is not going to be told by the cardiologist that he is on the verge of death. He will be told that according to the available evidence, he has a good chance of developing a possibly fatal heart disease. I doubt that a psychologically normal person would go home, sit down, and wait for scientific proof that the factors mentioned by the cardiologist are in fact capable of killing him. What is most certain is that that individual will begin taking care of himself immediately. If people behave that way when their personal health is at stake, why not adopt the same attitude toward the health of the planet? We must act now. Tomorrow may be too late.

[Alcantara] There is a more optimistic view of the future. Many researchers predict that fusion reactors producing clean energy will be in operation by mid-century. Automobiles will be powered by nonpolluting engines, and genetic engineering will make it possible to replant entire forests. Consequently, there are not many reasons for concern. What do you think of that way of looking at things?

[Strong] I think it involves a very big dose of confidence in the future which has little correspondence with the present. What we see is the boat tipping in the other direction—in the direction of accelerated and uncontrolled destruction. Moreover, that view is an invitation to inaction, when what we need to do is overcome inertia. The conference in Rio de Janeiro may have the beneficial effect of overcoming the inertia factor and launching the rich countries into an unprecedented effort to help the Third-World countries in their struggle to preserve the planet's environment.

Chile

Aylwin To Meet Fidel Castro in Guadalajara

PY1107190891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpts] President Patricio Aylwin has reported that the replacement for General Fernando Matthei, commander in chief of the Air Force, will be made known this week. He added that he will meet with Cuban President Fidel Castro during the Ibero-American summit that will be held in the Mexican city of Guadalajara. President Alywin referred to the trip that he will begin on 14 July to Colombia, El Salvador, and Mexico. He said it is very important to resume contacts with friendly countries and to negotiate international cooperation and economic integration. [passage omitted]

President Aylwin was asked whether he will meet with Fidel Castro, and also about the new Air Force commander. He said:

[Begin recording] [Aylwin] I think that I will meet with Fidel Castro; however, I am not able to be more specific.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you planned a meeting with the Cuban president?

[Aywlin] I will talk with Castro.

[Reporter] President, will the name of Gen. Matthei's successor be released before your trip?

[Aylwin] Yes. [end recording]

President Aylwin spoke at the conclusion of a ceremony at the O'Higgins Hall at La Moneda Palace, where he received the credentials of the new Ecuadoran Ambassador to Chile, Washington Herrera.

Army Denies Involvement in Political Espionage

PY1207030091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] In response to the charges made by LA EPOCA eight days ago, the Army categorically denied today that its security services are involved in political espionage.

In a brief communique, the Army said its intelligence services carry out their activities according to the laws and regulations, and that they do not get involved in political or private activities.

* Government Proposes Plan for Municipal Courts

91SM0392A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Jun 91 pp A1, A16

[Text] Valparaiso—The Ministry of Justice has placed at the disposal of congressmen the draft law creating municipal courts in each of the country's communities, to replace the current local police courts. It also stipulates their organization and jurisdiction, as well as their authority.

The bill, devised by a special commission, specifies that in communities wherein a municipality exists there must be at least one court, and possibly more than one.

It adds that, to be a municipal judge, one must be a lawyer and meet the requirements for a judge who is a member of the bar in a community or group of communities. It also notes that the municipal judge will be appointed by the regional superintendent, at the proposal of the respective council from a list of three candidates.

To make up the list of three a public competition will be opened, based on background and an examination. The judges will remain in the position for six years, and may be reelected. They will come directly and immediately under the directional, correctional, and financial supervision of the respective court of appeals.

It also stipulates that the municipal judges will submit a list of unsettled cases to the respective court of appeals every three months. The list will indicate their current status, and the reasons for the delay and stoppage to which any of them have been subjected. It must also cite cases in which verdicts have been issued during the same period, and those in the judgment phase.

It notes that each municipal council will submit to the respective court of appeals, before 15 December of each year, a report containing their evaluation of the municipal judges in their jurisdiction. It will be based on their dedication and diligence in discharging their duties. The Socioeconomic Councils will have the same authority. With this background information (it is added), the courts of appeals will prepare a rating of the municipal judges every year.

Financial Subordination

According to the bill, the municipal courts will be financially and administratively subordinate to the pertinent municipality.

It stipulates that the municipal judge will have jurisdiction in civil suits, and in all disputes stemming from family or municipal relations that do not constitute crimes and are not included within the purview of judges who are members of the bar. Their jurisdiction includes civil and comercial cases involving sums not exceeding 10 monthly tax units, leasing contracts when the monthly rent does not exceed two monthly tax units, and special possessory action.

They will also have authority in penal and administrative litigation, including violations covered in Book III of the Penal Code committed in the territory under their jurisdiction, as well as violations of the Consumer Protection Law.

In addition to their authority over regulations associated with the Traffic Law and municipal regulations, they will have jurisdiction in certain matters included in the "nonlitigious" category. It will also be incumbent on the municipal judges to act as conciliators in all matters brought before them by any party concerned, even if the volume of such matters exceeds their capabilities.

The bill contains eight titles, with 74 permanent and five transitory articles.

Criticism

Deputy Hernan Rojo of DC [Christian Democracy]), ex-judge of the La Cisterna local police for 15 years, declared that he rejected the bill outright, considering the appointment of municipal judges as being politically based (they are named by the regional superintendents from lists of three prepared by the municipal councils). He also based his rejection on the fact that the judge lacks an incentive, because he is appointed for only six years.

He added that the fundamental goal of the judicial reforms and, in this instance, of the creation of municipal courts, was to allow the community to have more effective and easier access to justice. In his view, the bill devised by a commission of specialists and submitted to congressmen by the Ministry of Justice "does not fulfill that goal."

He also noted that the bill expands the municipal judges' authority in comparison with that currently held by the local police. It adds many matters to their jurisdiction in the area of civil and penal litigation, which are properly handled by the civil small claims courts and criminal courts. Therefore, "the municipal judge has no simple procedures allowing him to act directly to resolve issues arising daily, as in the case of disputes occurring in the municipality."

* Increase in Industrial Production Announced

91SM0392B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Jun 91 pp B1, B18

[Text] The president of the Industrial Development Association (Sofofa), Fernando Aguero, announced that between January and April of this year industrial production increased 1 percent over the figure for the same period in 1990. Meanwhile, sales in the sector rose 5.5 percent.

Industrial production during April, compared with the same month in 1990, increased 3.7 percent; and, when compared with the figure for last March, it rose 4.8 percent.

During April the sector's sales increased 8.4 percent over those for the same month last year, gaining 3.2 percent compared with those for this past March.

Aguero remarked that the figures reflect positive signs of a moderate recovery in the industrial sector. He added that it would be necessary to wait a couple of months to confirm whether a definite reactivation can be claimed.

Nevertheless, he commented that, at the association's last general council meeting held last Wednesday, it was noted that during May, in general, a more positive tendency was maintained in the performance of sales and production.

The director noted that, when the sectors that have most raised and reduced production are analyzed, it is obvious that the increase is based primarily on a rise in consumption.

On the whole, the usual consumer goods posted a 5 percent increase thus far this year, with emphasis on the food industry in general, clothing (with the most growth), carbonated beverages, cleaning products for the home, cosmetics, and many print and publishing products. Durable consumer goods showed a 23 percent increase, including nonelectric machinery, white goods, electronic items, and furniture.

He also cited as significant the growth observed starting in April in the sector of intermediate goods for industry, including raw materials and components manufactured by certain industries. It has shown an increase of 17 percent thus far this year.

Aguero remarked that there has been a "very poor" performance in the sector of land transport equipment, particularly capital goods. The latter shows a decline for the first four months of the year and, as he noted, the prospects for this sector during the remainder of the year are rather negative. He attributed the decline to the termination of large investment projects in the country, and the failure of others to be initiated continuously.

Looking ahead, he thought that the reactivation should prove more homogeneous, and that it would soon be reflected in an increase in investment and a reinforcement of exports.

"The concrete fact is that, if we do not maintain a rather high rate of investments in the country, similar to that during 1989 and 1990, we will not be able to maintain a growth rate of about 5 percent or more per year later on. Consequently, this sharp decline in investments must be overcome soon; and to achieve this it is important to keep the ground-rules stable, and to open up new areas for the development of the private sector, so that there will be investments."

He pointed out that weakness is evident in the performance of production in the capital goods sector, as in the case of machine shops, the manufacture of welding compounds, and other products associated with investment. He also remarked that, "The rate of investment is lower in industry than it was last year."

He added that, although investment should be reactivated, there are no major projects in view over the short term. He gave a reminder of the Chilean Chamber of Construction projections, showing an investment rate this year of approximately 17 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product]. This falls short of that recorded last year.

However, he expressed the view that, as the good performance of sales is maintained, it will be reflected in production growth. If this occurs simultaneously with a drop in interest rates, it should be translated into increased investments in the industrial sector.

As for the exchange rate, he claimed to agree with the Santiago Chamber of Commerce, from the standpoint that an increase in imports would tend to strengthen it, provided that there are larger imports of components and intermediate goods for industry. He noted that, if larger imports of consumer goods were involved, this would not constitute a solution for reactivating the economy further.

His view was that not expanding the 5 percent margin on the dollar price range that has been observed would only cause a greater decline in the exchange rate. And he

expressed approval for authorizing the AFP [Pension Fund Administrators] to invest part of the social security funds abroad. This would help to reinforce the exchange rate, because there would be a demand for foreign currency, while at the same time the AFP would diversify their risk with good quality investments in other countries.

With regard to the May CPI [consumer price index], he claimed that there seems to be every indication that it will exceed 2 percent. He also commented that this is due to circumstantial factors, such as the quarterly survey on rents that will cover five months this time; the rising price of meat due to changes in food consumption habits after the cholera outbreak; and the increased prices of farm products and clothing, which are recovering in comparison with last year.

* Minister Projects Fall in Copper Production

91SM0392C Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Jun 91 p B10

[Text] The stoppage of production on the sub-6 level of the El Teniente mine (if it should continue throughout the year) would mean a reduction of of 25,000 tons in the target output initially projected by Codelco [Copper Corporation] for 1991, which was about 1.19 million tons of fine copper, with its four divisions. This statement was made by the minister of mining, Juan Hamilton.

At a press conference in which Codelco's executive president, Alejandro Noemi, also participated, the mining minister announced the results of a technical audit on the condition in which the corporation's new authorities received that deposit in March 1990.

The audit was conducted by the British firm, Techpro Mining & Metallurgy, which won the international bidding competition called by Codelco in August of last year.

Minister Hamilton claimed that, according to the technical report, "There were mistakes in design, operation, and fortification" on the mine's sub-6 level, where seismic events and rock outcroppings have been occurring since 1976.

The British consulting firm concluded that, "Over the short and medium term it will be impossible to carry out the production programs contained in the El Teniente expansion plan. The latter was intended to achieve treatment of 114,000 tons of ore per day by 1992; in other words, about 360,000 metric tons of fine copper per year."

Hamilton remarked that this lesser production could bring about a rise in the price of copper, although he claimed not to know how the market has been internalizing this by now well known situation at El Teniente.

After a rock explosion that occurred on 2 July 1990, the company stopped the extraction of ore from the sub-6 level while fortification work was being done, ending in March 1991. The ore extraction was resumed on a small scale on 1 April of this year, with the entire production sector refortified, based on suggestions from the team of consultants.

Owing to the new rock outcropping and displacement of the rocky mass that occurred on 29 May of this year, Codelco again halted operations on the sub-6 level. As the minister noted, this suspension will continue until the technical evaluation and the scope of the situation that has occurred are determined, thus taking precautions on behalf of the workers' safety.

Minister Hamilton declared: "The refortifications executed by the present administration have held up well," and he considered it reasonable to assume that this type of fortification, with an elastic feature, could be a solution to the problem.

Noemi claimed that, even though the last quake represented nearly 9,600 units of energy released, compared with 7,000 units in previous quakes, the refortified sectors on the sub-6 level did not show any damage.

As for the higher production cost represented by these fortifications, the Codelco president maintained that everything would depend on how many tons can be carried through. He said that, if the expectations are borne out, the additional cost would stand between 0.25 and 0.30 cents on the dollar per pound.

According to background information provided by Minister Hamilton, the consulting firm has concluded that the causes prompting El Teniente's critical situation (rock outcroppings, losses of production areas due to drift collapses, and uncontrolled over-excavation of shafts for the transfer of ore) stem from geotectonic phenomena in the deposit's primary rock. They are a reaction to the present mine design and its implementation on levels 4 and sub-6.

He observed that, according to the report, "These problems could have been anticipated, considering the existing geotectonic information on the deposit and the status of international geomechanical knowledge at the time of the respective decisions. Their manifestation was aggravated by the use of improper mining practices and low standards for fortifying the drifts."

He remarked: "The study indicates that the outside consulting firm contracted at the time by the El Teniente division was inappropriate. It ignored the effect of the structural discontinuities in the rocky mass, in contradiction to internationally accepted practice regarding settling methods." He also described the mining design used on the sub-6 level as "improper," noting that it disregards the geomechanical manifestations and seismic events that have occurred since 1976.

The report states: "The criterion of the higher management team, consistently ignoring the adverse events at the mine, deserves the most severe criticism."

Hamilton reiterated that, since 1976, there have been seismic events on that mine's sub-6 level. They were not made public until early 1990, when there was a rock outcropping that caused the deaths of six miners, injuring six others. A few days ago a worker died and about 20 were injured, when another accident occurred while the fortification work was being done.

He said that, in the opinion of the British consulting firm, the rock explosions will continue to occur at the mine; and their control should be achieved, minimizing their effects with the use of suitable fortifications and new operational practices. Concurrently, the investigation of the causes and of the mechanisms that are triggering the phenomenon should be continued.

Colombia

ELN Damage Cartagena Airport Landing Strip

PA1107144891 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1241 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Cartagena—At the same time that a charge of dynamite blew up part of the main landing strip of the Rafael Nunez International Airport in Cartagena, a heavy guerrilla column attacked San Martin de Loba, a town in southern Bolivar. For many hours, the rebels fought with the soldiers.

RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] has officially learned that five policemen who were defending the police station were killed in the attack, while three were wounded. So far, there are no reports of any casualties among the rebels, who apparently belong to the Army of National Liberation [ELN].

At this time, a commission led by Colonel Luis Leon Briceno, commander of the Bolivar Police Division, is preparing to travel to San Martin de Loba to determine the results of the bloody guerrilla takeover. Let us listen to what Col. Briceno told RCN:

[Begin recording] [Leon] The rebels placed a dynamite charge on the landing strip, obstructing it. The authorities are investigating to determine who is responsible.

[Reporter] When did the attack take place?

[Leon] It took place at approximately 2300 last night.

[Reporter] Will this affect the aviation activities at the airport?

[Leon] Of course, this will partially affect the operations.

[Reporter] Do you have any information about the identity of the persons responsible for this action?

[Leon] No, so far we do not know who they are, nor has anyone claimed credit for it.

[Reporter] Colonel, had the authorities adopted some security measures at the airport in view of the activities that have taken place here recently? For example, two bombs were detonated last weekend.

[Leon] Yes, security measures had been adopted. However, as you well know, terrorism is very easy to carry out. That is why the authorities are requesting the cooperation of the people. These types of activities are impossible to control without the cooperation of the people.

[Reporter] Where was the dynamite placed?

[Leon] On the culvert next to the landing strip.

[Reporter] Colonel, in addition to this situation, there is another very regrettable situation, and that is the guerrilla takeover of San Martin de Loba municipality in southern Bolivar. Do you have any information on this?

[Leon] In view of the fact that radio communications have been broken off, we only know that the attack is over. The army is supporting the police and we have an initial unconfirmed toll of five policemen dead and three wounded.

[Reporter] Which group attacked in that municipality, Colonel?

[Leon] I do not know exactly, but I would say it was the ELN, as it is the group operating in that area.

[Reporter] How long did the guerrillas remain in the town?

[Leon] Practically all night long. I do not know exactly how long, because—as I told you earlier—communications were cut off.

[Reporter] Thank you for your statements. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Civil Aeronautics has decided to suspend the landing and takeoff of large aircraft, but it has authorized activities for small planes such as the twin-engine plane that the commander of the Bolivar Police Division and other officers are using to go to southern Bolivar where the rebel attack took place.

Further CNGSB Guerrilla Attacks Reported

Attacks Detailed

PA0807161591

[Editorial Report] Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 8 July carries several reports on various guerrilla attacks. The first reports says that "joint army and police patrols were sent on 7 July to reinforce surveillance on the highway from Santa Fe de Bogota to Villavicencio Municipality, Meta Department to prevent further attacks by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB]." The station adds that a guerrilla column staged several attacks, and apparently "this same column is the one that left 19 municipalities of Meta without electricity after blowing up a power tower last week...." and that Villavicencio was left without power on the night of 7 July.

Meanwhile, a report from Popayan points out that two policemen were murdered in La Sierra municipality "apparently by CNGSB rebels." Another Popayan dateline item then stresses that "the public order situation in Almaguer Municipality is delicate following the guerrilla takeover by the CNGSB," adding that the Cauca police department reported that "at least five policemen were taken as prisoners of war by the rebels who attacked the police station, destroyed the telephone and radio communications system, and left the town totally isolated." Another report specifies that "reinforcement troops have been sent to the rural areas of Almaguer Municipality," and that joint army and police troops are searching in northern Narino and southern Cauca for the CNGSB column.

Another report is from Sogamoso, where "two guerrillas were killed, and several rebels, two soldiers, and one civilian were wounded" in two clashes between national army troops and the rebels from the CNGSB that took place "within the last few hours" near Pajarito, on the road from Sogamoso to Yopal, Casanares.

Northern Coast Sabotaged

PA1007190491 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—While the Atlantic Coast's business committee issued a call for help due to the lack of energy in seven departments in the country's northern coast, the authorities disclosed that in the past 24 hours, the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] had launched 10 terrorist attacks on the energy system.

It was officially reported that a state of emergency was declared in 10 departments due to the blackout caused when the rebels blew up the energy towers that supply the area. State security entities said that the rebels are now carrying out a new mode of telephone terrorism [terrorism telefonico].

The Atlantic Cost's business committee, which comprises businessmen and industrialists from the northern coast, said the losses due to the lack of energy so far add up to 15 billion pesos. The latest official reports indicated that the GNGSB blew up three energy towers and a stretch of the Colombia pipeline, burned a dredging machine, and ambushed several police patrol. It was just reported that the Uraba banana region in Antioquia Department is also feeling the impact of the CNGSB's actions, as it is without electricity.

Officials Seek Solutions

PA1007163791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1736 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Top government officials began a crucial meeting at the government ministry this morning to seek a solution to the country's situation because of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board's [CNGSB] devastating actions. The CNGSB has continued to dynamite power towers supporting high-tension lines. In addition, the officials are studying the possibility of postponing the second round of talks scheduled to be held in Caracas.

Today's meeting was attended by President Cesar Gaviria, the defense minister, and National Security Adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda.

[Begin recording] [Pardo] These attacks indicate a coordinated plan, not actions or reactions by individual fronts, to show the CNGSB's terrorists capability.

[Reporter] What will the government do in view of this terrorist escalation, particularly in the northern part of the country?

[Pardo] The government and the authorities have been doing their duties and will continue to combat crime and illegal actions at all levels and in all fields of the country where it is necessary.

[Reporter] Do you think the government has lost control of the public order situation?

[Pardo] No, not at all. Terrorism produces a great multiplying effect on the public, particularly because of the small actions without any military importance, but which produce an important general effect, as we have seen. We should not mistake terrorism for the guerillas' having increased military capability, which they do not. These attacks represent rather a terrorist escalation to leave the impression of a military power that they do not have. The only impression they leave is of terrorism. [end recording]

In another meeting being held at the Government Ministry, the possibility of postponing for several days a meeting in Caracas with the CNGSB and current District Government Secretary Jose Noe Rios, who is joining the dialogue commission, is being considered.

Wrapup of Colombian Battle Activity

PA1107160291

[Editorial Report] Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 1 July carries a 250-word report on page 9-A stating that "one rancher and five Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, guerrillas were killed during a rescue operation that took place in Antioquia Department on 30 June."

The same report adds that "FARC guerrillas from the 36th front ambushed an elite police unit on patrol in Antioquia Department on 30 June and killed one policeman and wounded another."

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 1 July carries a one minute report on guerrilla units carrying out another attack against ECOPETROL facilities in Cano Limon region on 30 June. According to the report, the guerrillas placed explosive charges at the Barrancabermeja-Bucaramanga oil pipeline. The report also adds that no casualties were reported.

Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 2 July carries a 400-word report on page 6 detailing an increase in activity by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNGSB, on 1 July, resulting in one junior officer and one policeman killed, nine soldiers and and policemen wounded, five people kidnapped, and three electrical tower blown up.

According to the report, the first attack took place in Cundinamarca Department when "CNGSB guerrillas blew up two electrical towers cutting off electrical power to 28 municipalities, including the Villavicencio, the capital city of Cundinamarca."

The CNGSB then extended its operations to Santander Department, which resulted in the death of one army officer and four soldiers. Also, four policemen were wounded and five were kidnapped.

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 4 July carries a 400-word report on page 11-a which says that National Liberation Army, ELN, guerrillas destroyed a bridge in Bucaramanga and another bridge in Magdalena on 3 July."

In addition, the guerrillas proceeded to blow up another bridge in Cesar Department, which had been rebuilt after it had been destroyed on 18 June.

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 5 July carries a 400-word article on the major activities perpetrated by the CNGSB on 4 July. These include the murder of a court secretary in Boyaca, the dynamiting of an electrical tower in Casanare, and the wounding of three policemen in Magadalena.

The article states that, according to police report, " the court secretary was executed by a combined unit of FARC and ELN guerrillas during an incursion into the town of Boyaca."

The guerrillas also blew up an electrical tower in Casanare Department. According to municipal authorities, "Casanare will be without electrical power for approximately one week."

The same article reports on three policemen, who were wounded during an ambush set by CNGSB, in Magdalena Department.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 5 July carries a one minute report on police authorities reporting that "100 guerrillas had attacked the Valledupar police garrison in La Guajira Department." The attack resulted in one policeman wounded, ten missing, and the police garrison totally destroyed. The report continues to add that the police garrison was attacked with heavy artillery.

Bogota Inravision Television Canal 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 5 July in a one minute report on FARC guerrillas blowing up a power station in Cundinamarca. The destruction of the power station left ten municipalities without electricity.

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 6 July on pages 1-A and 6-A carries a 600-word report on several sabotage activities carried out by the CNGSB. The report states that "the CNGSB rebels blew up tower 76 of the electric system located in Quetame, Cundinamarca Department, at 0545 hours on 5 July." The report also says that this sabotage action left the whole Meta Department and some municipalities of the Cundinamarca Department without electricity.

The same report says that on the morning of 5 July, rebels attacked the town of La Junta, in San Juan Del Cesar, La Guajira Department. The report adds that "one policeman was wounded during this attack, five others were kidnapped and four civilians are also missing."

The report also adds that on 5 July "an ELN column blew up a section of the pipeline in Pelaya, Cesar Department, causing 5,000 barrels of crude to be spilled."

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 7 July on pages 1-A and 6-A carries a 600-word report on several activities carried out by the CNGSB rebels.

The report says that on 6 July "CNGSB rebels blew up a bridge on the main road of La Paz in the Zaragoza municipality, Antioquia Department, leaving a large mining area without communications." The report adds that the sabotage was carried out by members of the 37th "Jose Maria Cordova" Front of the FARC.

The report also says that on 6 July two policemen were killed in La Sierra, 64 km south of Popayan in Cauca Department. The report adds that "10 heavily armed men, apparently members of the CNGSB, shot the two policemen."

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 8 July carries a two minute report on several rebel activities. The report says that on 6 July "FARC rebels blew up the petroleum exploration and drilling installations in La Hormiga, Orito jurisdiction, in the southern Putumayo Department." The report says that the rebels blew up the storage tanks, pumps, engines, and the general infrastructure.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 at 0030 GMT on 9 July carries a one-minute report on a clash held on 8 July. The report says that "police forces and troops of the Nutibarra Antiguerrilla Battalion clashed all day with CNGSB columns in the Las Juntas area in La Uramita, 162 km northwest of Medellin." The report adds that, according to government troops, two civilians were killed, three policemen were wounded, and five other policemen were kidnapped.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 9 July carries a one-minute report on several activities carried out by the rebels on 8 July. The report mentions the clash in Uramita, Antioquia Department, and adds that the rebels stole 10 Galil assault rifles.

The report also says that CNGSB rebels attacked a police patrol in San Gabriel De Biota, Cundinamarca Department. The report adds that "one policeman was killed and two others were wounded."

The same report says further that the rebels blew up the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline at the El Tarra municipality in the Norte De Santander Department.

Another one minute report during the same newscast says that the Bucaramanga police department has confirmed that the CNGSB guerillas blew up two electric towers in Bucaramanga. The report adds that "one of the towers was located on a bus terminal that President Cesar Gaviria was scheduled to inaugurate on 11 July."

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 10 July broadcasts a one minute report on a raid carried out by the FARC on a town in Tolima Department. The report says that "between 100 and 150 FARC rebels took over Valencia, Cunday municipality in the Tolima Department at 0000 GMT on 10 July. The rebels attacked the police garrison and the health post." The report adds that

two policemen were killed, two were wounded, and three other policemen were taken as hostages as well as two civilians.

The report also states that two modern training camps of the FARC and the ELN were dismanteled and destroyed by troops of the Granaderos Antiguerrilla Battalion in the highest area of the Perija hills. The report adds that the operation was carried out in Quebrada Rodrigo, La Jagua de Ibirico and Codazzi municipalities, on the border with Venezuela and that one of the camps had room for 200 men.

Security Adviser, Fidel Castro Reportedly Meet

PA1107232691 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Last night, some television stations reported on alleged trips that Gabriel Garcia Marquez [renown Colombian writer] and Presidential National Security Adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda made to Havana. Radio Cadena Nacional has been able to gather the facts.

First, Pardo Rueda was indeed in Havana between 1 and 6 July, and he spoke to Cuban President Fidel Castro. They did not talk about the guerrillas but about other topics.

Second, Garcia Marquez was not in Havana during that week. He has not returned to Cuba since May.

Third, we just spoke personally with Garcia Marquez, who said he was in Caracas on 5 and 6 July but not to discuss the Colombian rebels. Instead, he was summoned by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez for a meeting of Latin American intellectuals regarding the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. Therefore, Garcia Marquez was not in Havana, but in Caracas, and he was not there to discuss the rebels.

Rafael Pardo Rueda was indeed in Havana. He spoke to Fidel Castro but not about the Colombian guerrillas. Thus, the question we must ask ourselves is obvious, as in a contest. What did Pardo Rueda and Fidel Castro talk about if they did not discuss the Colombian rebels? What was their topic of conversation? It remains a secret.

We can, therefore, assume that Garcia Marquez is not involved in the dialogue between the government and the rebels in Caracas. He was in Caracas on 5 and 6 July and returned to Bogota on 6 July. While in Caracas, he attended a meeting of intellectuals on the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

We were also able to confirm that Rafael Pardo Rueda was also in Caracas [as heard] on three earlier occasions and that the last time he was there, not last week but one month ago, he did talk to Fidel Castro about the Colombian guerrillas.

Poll Shows President Gaviria's Popularity Up

PA1107134491 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Jul 91 p 8A

[Text] According to the latest poll conducted by the Napoleon Franco firm in Bogota, Cali, Medellin, and Barranquilla—the four main Colombian cities—56.8 percent of Colombians believe that the country is on the right path.

The survey, conducted among 783 people of various social levels and ages, showed that 79 percent have a favorable opinion of President Gaviria, while 14.7 percent expressed a negative opinion.

The most outstanding characteristic of the survey was the high level of optimism shown by young people. Within the 18-24 age bracket, 80.6 percent said that they believe changes are taking place in the country, and 81.2 percent in this group had a favorable concept of President Gaviria.

The city with the highest percentage of optimism in regard to the country's situation was Cali with 58 percent, followed by Medellin with 53 percent.

Asked whether they thought drug traffickers, who have turned themselves in, will receive a just sentence, 67.5 percent said yes.

President Gaviria has 89.9 percent acceptance among Liberals, 90.9 percent among supporters of the National Salvation Movement, 74.5 percent among M-19 April Movement members, and 75 percent among Conservative Party members.

Church Criticizes Approval of Divorce; Terrorists

PA0607170391 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] The Colombian Catholic Church has voiced severe criticism for the Constituent Assembly's approval of divorce, the government's privileges for Pablo Escobar Gaviria, and the terrorist attacks of the guerrillas.

Msgr. Pedro Rubiano Sanchez, president of the Episcopal Conference, upon opening the bishop's 55th assembly, deplored the government's pressure to modify the present concordat at the National Constituent Assembly. He also denounced the Assembly's decision regarding divorces for Catholic marriages, and affirmed that for the Catholic Church, the sacramental bond is undissolvable, even though the new Constitution says otherwise.

Msgr. Rubiano Sanchez also criticized the privileges that Cesar Gaviria's administration has granted Medellin Cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar and raised serious doubts about the connection between the surrender of drug traffickers and the Constituent Assembly's approval of a provision that prohibits extradition.

The high prelate condemned the guerrilla terrorist attacks and said that the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board does not want peace, because at the same time it is negotiating with the government in Caracas, it continues to attack the Colombian population and economy.

* Pardo Explains Strategy Against Violence

91SM0385A Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 3 Jun 91 pp 25-27

[Interview with Rafael Pardo, Presidential National Security Adviser, by Eduardo Marquez G.; place and date not given]

[Text] Reducing the incidence of violence in Colombia: that is the goal of the Gaviria administration's National Strategy Against Violence.

Colombia has one of the highest incidences of violence in the world. In the last 10 years, homicides have risen at a truly alarming pace. Last year alone, nearly 28,000 Colombians met a violent end, and 2,186 suffered the scourge of kidnaping. Seventy-five percent of the murders were committed with firearms, a proportion which is increasing geometrically.

The strategy is aimed at seeking something more than peace, which has always been identified with organized armed groups, just one of the fronts where violence must be reduced.

The first comprehensive plan developed in this area comprises three major proposals: restoring to the government the monopoly on the use of force, restoring the justice system's capacity to punish crimes and to end impunity, and giving the government a presence throughout the national territory.

Rafael Pardo, presidential adviser on national security, coordinated the team that drafted the document, which was released on 23 May.

Prospects for Peace

[Marquez] How is the National Strategy Against Violence different from a peace initiative?

[Pardo] The peace initiative is directed specifically at the guerrillas, and it uses dialogue as a mechanism for demobilizing them and returning them to civilian life. The strategy includes that mechanism, but it seeks to affect all of the factors that generate violence. It encompasses the policy of "submission to justice" [encouraging defendants to turn themselves in], which we are certain will produce results in the short term with the reduction of terrorism and drug trafficking. But 80 percent of the violent deaths in Colombia are not the result of guerrilla warfare, terrorism, or drug trafficking, but of common crime, of the diverse factors of criminality.

[Marquez] What difficulties or shortcomings is the strategy designed to overcome, with respect to measures taken in the past?

[Pardo] The strategy is comprehensive in nature. Violence can be overcome only if all government agencies join together and if community organizations are given a broad and clearly-defined participatory role.

[Marquez] But public order is the responsibility of the state.

[Pardo] It is not an exclusive responsibility of the armed forces or of the government. It is a task for all Colombians. Hence its comprehensive nature. Another important element is that any pressure of a violent nature, be it real or potential, is defined as undesirable. There are Colombians who think that some violence is justified, or who oppose one kind of violence that they consider undesirable, but tolerate another kind.

[Marquez] And how does self-defense fit into this scheme?

[Pardo] That case fits within the violation of human rights. Some people think that guerrilla violence is justifiable. The strategy is based on the principle that in a democratic society it is appropriate for the state to maintain a monopoly on the use of force.

[Marquez] How will the state obtain a real monopoly on weapons?

[Pardo] There are policies that deal with the regional factors of violence. These policies call for the authorities at the level of regions, departments, intendencies, precincts, and municipalities to effectively exercise their responsibility in maintaining public order. The majority of the agents of violence in Colombia—with the exception of the guerrillas and the drug traffickers—stem from regional origins.

[Marquez] How will communities be encouraged to participate in the decisions that fall within the purview of the government?

[Pardo] All Colombians—whether organized or on their own—have proposals in this regard. The citizen will become the monitor of state action.

End of Impunity

[Marquez] The second objective is to strengthen the justice system with a view to eliminating impunity. How will the Colombian justice system be modernized?

[Pardo] A single law enforcement jurisdiction has been organized. The judges are located in five cities, where it is easiest to protect court officials and witnesses and to make prosecution more effective. Secondly, the Judicial Police, the criminal investigation units of the National Police, the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), and the National Office of Judicial Criminal Investigation will all be coordinated by the latter entity. This serves to strengthen the investigation during the development of the prosecution. This is a key element in eliminating impunity. Another aspect is the decriminalization of certain acts, whereby police inspectors are assigned to handle certain matters in a single proceeding. And there are also the mediation offices that handle domestic problems, which come under the jurisdiction of city governments, as well as the "submission to justice" program for those who voluntarily turn themselves in to be tried by the courts.

[Marquez] The state has had a basic presence only in the upper part of the three mountain ranges. The government intends to establish a presence throughout the national territory. How will this be achieved?

[Pardo] Let us look only at the case of law enforcement: In Colombia there are about 10,000 human settlements. During the election periods, about 3,000 of them are patrolled. The same is true of the presence of civilian authorities, or of minimum public services. For this reason, people seek alternatives outside the Constitution, in many areas with the participation of armed groups who take advantage of this circumstance to subjugate the population. As far as public investment or services are concerned, historically there has been a favorable cordon around the cities. We will try to reverse this situation under the National Rehabilitation Plan (PNR).

[Marquez] Have the rates of violence decreased in the areas of the PNR?

[Pardo] The objective of the PNR is not to go into the violent areas, but to cover neglected areas. So far, it has created a climate of peaceful coexistence in many of these places. Today it is a veritable philosophy of the state that is being disseminated in all agencies of the government.

More Than a Stroke of the Pen

[Marquez] How will youth violence be dealt with?

[Pardo] That is a typically urban phenomenon that has to do with economic problems, with the use of free time, with the educational model that is promoted, and with the attitude of government officials toward youths. The solution should come from programs specifically developed in each city where the problem exists. It is also essential that we develop the elements to socialize young people and incorporate them into society through programs carried out by both nongovernmental and governmental organizations. The cities are working on this. It is not a program that can be devised in Bogota with a stroke of the pen.

[Marquez] Is it possible to guarantee the observance of human rights in a country like Colombia?

[Pardo] It is possible. Since the government does not tolerate the violation of human rights, it is seeking to strengthen internal mechanisms for their protection, including the investigation of alleged violations.

[Marquez] How long will it take to see results?

[Pardo] The strategy is designed to be implemented during this administration. It is an internal security plan established according to the norms of national security and defense, and it is being developed through specific presidential directives for each organization, for each agency, for each institute, for each level of government.

[Marquez] In your diagnosis, you underestimate the factors that have generated violence, such as socioeconomic or political factors, especially that of the restricted democracy that prevailed in Colombia for so many years.

[Pardo] All of those factors have an impact, but none has sufficient weight to explain most of Colombia's violence. Sociopolitical factors stimulated the creation of guerrilla groups. Other factors, socioeconomic ones, are responsible for the almost constant presence of violent reactions in the population. More than half the murders that have occurred in the last 15 years have taken place in Antioquia and the Valle del Cauca, which are two of the three most prosperous departments in the country. There is no direct correlation between poverty areas and violence.

[Marquez] The per capita income is high, but not the level of wealth distribution.

[Pardo] There are other historically depressed areas that do not have such rates of violence. Impunity and the absence of government regulation are the most important factors in explaining the daily violence. The message of this strategy is that we cannot tolerate violence and regard it as a factor we can do nothing about.

* Abella Discusses UP, Other Leftist Groups

91SM0385C Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 10 Jun 91 p 23

[Interview with Aida Abella, Constituent Assembly member from Patriotic Union, by Yirama Castano Guiza; place and date not given]

[Text] Aida Abella Esquivel is a militant communist "who would not change her tune just to get an embassy appointment." Many say she is a hardliner, but she does not consider herself that. She is radical in her principles and she does not care if people call her "loud mouth," because the only thing she has is her voice. Now, in the Assembly, every time she sees the representatives of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) she greets them with a "Hey, 'mamertos'!" [commies]. When you get right down to it, Aida is an expert on what constitutes a "mamerto", since she has been called that for 20 years.

It Is Our Duty ...

[Castano] In the beginning, the M-19 Democratic Alliance (AD M-19) was designated to speak for all of the so-called minorities in the Assembly, and the Patriotic Union (UP) appeared to be part of that alliance. Do you agree with the role they have played in that regard?

[Abella] There are a number of things going on in the AD M-19. It is not unanimous in the Assembly, neither in its votes nor in the defense of many positions. Naturally, their aspirations to attain power are hampering them because they must reach compromises with the traditional forces in this country. This even attenuated the proposals they made during the campaign, and it is dangerous for the reforms. Another factor that is having an effect and that may complicate matters in the AD M-19 is that it appears that their only objective is Congress. The other fundamental issues are treated as if they were minor details.

[Castano] Since the voting began in the Assembly, you and Alfredo Vazquez Carrizosa have abstained or voted no. Is the UP no longer in the AD M-19 bloc?

[Abella] We have a completely different political approach. We are part of the Colombian left. We believe that socialism has a future. We are separated by many things. We have not hesitated at all on issues such as the Public Force and Humanitarian Law; they are fine. On the other hand, I am a pessimist and I think it is impossible to

have permanent consensus in blocs. There is too much plurality in the Assembly and very little homogeneity among the members of the delegations.

[Castano] Can it be said that the UP is the true minority in the Assembly?

[Abella] Perhaps. Nonetheless, at some times we are accompanied by the Indians. There are really not many of us minorities left. It is not a question of giving up principles to achieve consensus.

[Castano] Do you think the UP has been eliminated from the country's political life, and that what little was left of it has become blurred?

[Abella] The UP is going through a difficult period because of the unrelenting violence it has had to endure. More than 1,600 political assassinations have taken place. No other political group has seen two presidential candidates slain, along with a large number of senators, representatives, deputies, and council members in a single election campaign. No wonder the political apparatus is damaged. Despite that, the UP has one great quality, and that is its ability to survive in these conditions. It has behaved heroically. But that is not enough; we must engage in politics.

[Castano] Some say that the UP and Aida Abella have made a campaign issue out of the reports of deaths and disappearances.

[Abella] We have an obligation to our members and their families to at least decry their deaths. This is a party that does not and cannot hide its deaths. It is not a campaign issue, just a defense of human rights. And we will continue to do it.

[Castano] Has the Communist Party (PC) disappeared in Colombia, or has it merged with the UP?

[Abella] No, I think it is alive, and it could establish a presence as a UP sector. But it is independent. The Communists have contributed important people, even to the traditional parties. Maybe there have been disagreements over some ideas, but they were active in the party. The story must be revised.

[Castano] But there is talk of serious ideological rifts over dogma, and of the closed-minded, reactionary position of certain members of the PC.

[Abella] There are different factions, and there have even been some defections, but this happens in every party in the world. It is just noticed more in the left because of the newspaper coverage we are given. The same thing happened in the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party. Their most representative cadres are now independent.

[Castano] Do you think that the Assembly should accept Manuel Marulanda Velez's proposal that he be allowed to speak for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) before the Plenary Session?

[Abella] All Colombians should be heard. He is not an ordinary man. He has devoted his life to a battle that some respect and others categorically reject. Marulanda Velez is controversial, but he has his merits, as do all Colombians. It would be a good idea for a person who has led the insurgent struggle in Colombia, who has made contributions and not just fired bullets, to be given a chance to speak.

[Castano] You are one of the representatives of the Assembly at the Caracas talks. Do you think the Coordinating Committee and the government really want to achieve peace this time?

[Abella] We know that it is a difficult dialogue. It is not the same situation as before. But we are also optimistic that the government will abandon a mentality that prevailed for a long time. We have already seen that with the presence of Minister De la Calle at the talks, and we are convinced that the insurgent movement has very specific proposals for looking at this country from a different perspective. People must be taken at their word. Of course, this cannot be straightened out overnight.

[Castano] When the Guerrilla Coordinating Committee enters the country's civilian and political life, will it join the Patriotic Union?

[Abella] They would be welcomed in. They need a political outlet. That outlet may be the UP, or there may be a need to put together a broader movement.

• Navarro Wolff Assesses M-19's Power, Prospects

91SM0385B Bogota CROMOS in Spanish
3 Jun 91 p 23

[Interview with Antonio Navarro Wolff, leader of the M-19 Democratic Alliance and president of the National Constituent Assembly, by Yirama Castano Guiza; place and date not given]

[Text] For Antonio Navarro Wolff, leader of the M-19 Democratic Alliance (AD M-19) and president of the National Constituent Assembly, the closer the moment of truth, the greater the risk. He thinks that this country has not yet abandoned the use of violence to resolve conflicts.

The former combatant is one of the most controversial politicians of the day. He still takes precautions, because he may yet become one more victim of political crime in Colombia. His life has been like this for the last 17 years. That does not mean that he has conquered fear, but neither does it mean that fear intimidates him. For this reason, despite the bodyguards, last Sunday he went to Pasto to attend the first communion of his son Camilo; that was the only time he ever arrived late at the Assembly.

Desire for Power

[Castano] Four months ago, you proposed turning the AD M-19 into a political party. That idea was not accepted by your followers, and on the other hand, analysts claim that parties will cease to exist. Are you adamant about this?

[Navarro] I think it is a legitimate aspiration, and we must move in that direction. Nonetheless, we cannot do it by decree. For the time being, we must be a combination of party, movement, and current of opinion.

[Castano] One of the Liberal Party's greatest concerns is the rumor that in the municipal jurisdictions the M-19 will take votes from the Liberals and that, if the age of majority is changed to 17, these new voters will back the Alliance.

[Navarro] The AD M-19 is a combination of Liberals, Conservatives, and people with no party affiliation, people of the left and independents. The fear that Liberal votes will go over to M-19 is not unfounded, because an important part of our support lies with people who have tired of the behavior of their political leaders.

[Castano] M-19's political plan calls for it to be in office in at least 20 percent of the country's municipal jurisdictions within a year. What will happen next? What will be the future of the Alliance?

[Navarro] That depends on what we achieve when we win in a large number of municipalities, because that will be the acid test of the government's performance. We must prove that we can be better than our predecessors. We are preparing our candidates not only to win, but to govern well. The objective is to last. We hope to be a political phenomenon that will become a serious, democratic, stable organization.

[Castano] In the National Assembly we see Antonio Navarro the politician, the conciliator, the negotiator. But what happened to the warrior, the revolutionary? Does he no longer exist?

[Navarro] The results we are obtaining in this country are a challenge posed by warriors. We are a political force that is a clear power option. This is a risk that requires courage, vigor, and decisiveness. The desire right now is to build that power option. We are defending our plans intelligently, but also forcefully.

[Castano] The followers of M-19 expected that the reforms proposed by the Alliance would be the most drastic ones, but that has not turned out to be true. Some were as conservative as those put forth by the traditional parties, if not more so.

[Navarro] I do not think so. We have a clear idea of the parameters of the moment and an understanding of the current aspirations. We have identified the need for a far-reaching political renovation. Our proposal of new elections for Congress was clear from the beginning, and as a result, we have suffered from all kinds of verbal assaults. The fact is, no one won the war; rather, an opportunity was created for peaceful change. That is our change, different in form and method from the change brought about by a revolution. It implies, among other things, acceptance of the fact that there can be no hegemony, only a new way of achieving a consensus by taking the initiative, exerting influence, and being part of the leadership of the renovation.

[Castano] Why does Antonio Navarro inspire so much fear among Colombian politicians?

[Navarro] Because Antonio Navarro represents a viable plan to attain power.

[Castano] Do you agree that your meetings with Alvaro Gomez, Alfonso Lopez, and Misael Pastrana, rather than forging agreements, have led to confrontations and created a certain climate of discord in the Assembly?

[Navarro] The truth is that there is a new phenomenon. Colombian politics was accustomed to the hegemony of the National Front, and afterwards, to that of a majority party. The Liberal Party no longer has a majority in the Assembly, and it is not used to that situation. I think that it is a good idea to seek consensus, to attract other sectors and build a majority. That is where the future of this country's politics lies. The idea of Navarro and Pastrana holding talks makes people nervous because the former president, who had always voted for the Liberal Party's programs "for free," may not do that anymore. People do not understand the situation, and the Liberals have not yet accepted the fact that they are part of the minority.

[Castano] Some say that you are fighting for the reforms that best suit you, and that you are paving the way for your election as president of the republic.

[Navarro] I wish I could, but it is not that easy. The AD M-19, with Navarro or with someone else, aims to achieve power, just as any political force does, so that it can put its ideas into practice. The situation in this country is very complex, and therefore nothing can be predicted. Politics is full of incidents, nuances, convergences. For the time being, what we must achieve is a well-written, sensible, balanced, and broad-minded constitution. One that will enable all of us to fit in the same bed.

Paraguay

Defense Minister Souto Interviewed

PY1107133291 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0245 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Brigade General Angel Souto Hernandez by anchorman Benjamin Fernandez Bogado in a television studio in Asuncion during the "In Detail" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Fernandez] We are broadcasting live from the Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television studio where we will discuss the role of military men. National Defense Minister General Angel Souto Hernandez, retired, is our guest tonight. He is the Air Force officer who was named defense minister in August 1989. Good evening General, how are you?

[Souto] Good evening. I am very well thank you.

[Fernandez] The Paraguayan society often wonders what role the military plays.

[Souto] According to the Constitution, the Armed Forces safeguard national sovereignty. Paraguay is one of the few countries in the world that has had an Armed Forces for many years and of which its people are very proud. I understand that the Paraguayan people are proud of their Armed Forces and this can be witnessed during the military parades and various other expressions of affection the Armed Forces receive from the Paraguayan people. I do not think there is a single Paraguayan who is not proud of mentioning that our Armed Forces have endured two

international wars, that our Armed Forces emerged triumphant from the last international war. Now that we are experiencing a transition period toward democracy the Armed Forces, in addition to being regarded as the architects of this process are also charged with safeguarding its successful implementation.

[Fernandez] General, when you talk about the Armed Forces' role you mention world sovereignty, you talk about safeguarding sovereignty. This is a very special moment in the world, a time when there is even talk about yielding a bit of sovereignty for the sake of integration, as in the case of Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. European countries talk about the European Community and its integration, about a great market. Will the Armed Forces continue to play that traditional role you have mentioned, which has a symbolic character, which inspires national unity based on sovereignty, or will we have a different type of Armed Forces?

[Souto] I do not want to forecast, but Mercosur will, undoubtedly, will bring new expectations. In the near future, if Mercosur really materializes, we will live in a different Paraguay. Our presidents seem to be meeting constantly, therefore, this shows that the governments and the presidents want the Mercosur project to be successful. However, there is still a long path ahead of us before Mercosur is actually implemented. I think that when this happens, and our countries are truly integrated from the economic point of view, the Armed Forces will probably have to be reorganized and their role will have to be redefined. It is hard to define, in only a few words, the role played by the Armed Forces. If I were to elaborate on the Armed Forces' role , from the Defense Ministry point of view, I would say that they are also serving as the spearhead of development in the national territory. As you know, the Defense Ministry has in the Chaco region, the Chaco Development Commission headed by the Defense Minister that is creating development areas not far from military units. Why does it create these areas near military areas? If I am going to send people to live in the remote areas of the Chaco, I must at least be able to assure them that their children will be able to go to school, that they will have hospitals, that they will have some assistance, and that they will have roads to send their products to the markets. And this is precisely what we are doing now. The Armed Forces, at this moment, are also responsible for this. Well, I am probably making this too long.

[Fernandez] No. Not at all. General, I want to ask you something else. The Paraguayan society as a whole is recovering from 35 long dark years in the cultural, political, and civilian fields. How did Stroessner's dictatorship affect the Armed Forces, General?

[Souto] I would say the Armed Forces were badly affected. This is a rather difficult question to answer. Nevertheless, it has an answer. As you know, one of the reasons for the 3 February coup in 1989 was precisely to dignify the Armed Forces. In my opinion, the Paraguayan Armed Forces, at a given time could hardly call themselves Armed Forces. They were badly paid and those who really deserved to be promoted were not always the ones to be promoted; those who fulfilled very special requirements were the one most often to benefit from that. All this contributed to tarnish the image of the Armed Forces. During meetings with various officers, generals, and colonels who visited Taiwan where I served as ambassador for quite a long time, we discussed this problem. We even discussed the low salaries paid to military men who had to fulfill a difficult role. One must admit that being a military man requires a lot of devotion to service, because the salaries are low and the sacrifices are great. Military men have no timetables, they serve almost around the clock. Therefore, during that period we never knew if tomorrow we would belong to the Armed Forces, because it all depended on a series of other factors alien to the professionalism or personal characteristics of each individual. It all depended on other factors that had nothing to do with the Armed Forces.

[Fernandez] General, did Stroessner in some way corrupt the institutionality of the Armed Forces?

[Souto] I would say so. I would say that he definitely corrupted the...[changes thought]. Well, we had better just talk about the Armed Forces. Paying low salaries to officers compels them to seek another income on the side and that is a form of corruption. The mere fact of promoting people who do not deserve to be promoted and the fact that only those people who fulfilled very special requirements, which were quite alien to those required to be promoted within the Armed Forces, is also a form of corruption.

[Fernandez] General, this phase of the reorganization of the Armed Forces also entails its institutionalization. What does this mean?

[Souto] A lot of people talk about the institutionalization of the Armed Forces but the truth is that the Armed Forces are an organized institution that have a commander and regulations. I believe that when they talk about institutionalization they mean that the Armed Forces should more or less remain in their barracks. I believe that this is what they mean. If this is not the case, there is no reason to talk about the institutionalization of the Armed Forces.

[Fernandez] What does the phrase, " Military men should stay in their barracks" mean you?

[Souto] That military men should not engage in politics and that they should devote their time to fulfilling their specific role, as I said earlier, that they should safeguard national sovereignty and ensure that the transition process be implemented successfully.

[Fernandez] Do you agree with this?

[Souto] I do.

[Fernandez] Do you agree with the point that military men should not engage in politics?

[Souto] I would say no. I do not believe that military men should not be allowed to have a political preference, an ideology, that they should not prefer one party or another, that they should not prefer one candidate or another. I do not agree with that, but I do believe that they should not be

actively engaged in politics. I do not think the Armed Forces, at this moment, should engage in politics.

[Fernandez] After this interview, we will be interviewing USSR Ambassador to Buenos Aires Vladimir Nikitin. The USSR is currently discussing the subject of compulsory affiliation to the communist party in order to be able to belong to the Soviet Armed Forces. Something similar happened in Paraguay. If someone wished to enroll in the Military College, he had to belong to the Colorado Party. Did this requirement severely restrict the national spectrum of the Armed Forces and make it exclusively subservient to a political party?

[Souto] The slogan Government, Party, and Armed Forces undoubtedly made the Armed Forces exclusive to members of the Colorado Party. A sign that things have really changed is the fact that the Armed Forces safeguarded the recent elections where the elected candidates were not all Colorado Party members. Therefore, as you can see, things have changed basically from that point of view.

[Fernandez] General, it is said that the cultural attitudes are one of the hardest things to change. Do you think the Military College should have a new curriculum, a new academic program to train the military men of the future, or are things correct as they stand?

[Souto] We should not consider the Armed Forces to be a static institution. The Armed Forces are constantly looking into the possibilities of improving their cadres, of improving their organization. At this moment the Armed Forces has a new organization project in hand which will probably be submitted to Congress shortly. Likewise, the Military College does not have a definite curriculum that has been implemented for many years. The Military College constantly changes its curriculum, as is normal.

[Fernandez] Our guest tonight is General Angel Souto Hernandez, national defense minister. This is the first time in 25 years of Paraguayan television that a national defense minister has appeared before the television cameras to discuss the Armed Forces' role, function, and participation in the country's social life, and also to assess the role of the Armed Forces during the dark years of Stroessner's 35 year dictatorship.

General, another subject much discussed lately is the fact that the Armed Forces have an extremely large budget and that the defense budget is detrimental to the budgets of other ministries.

[Souto] I would not say that is the case knowing the way in which the defense budget is used. I would say that the budget hardly covers the necessary requirements for the Armed Forces to be able to fulfill their specific mission. I would like the defense budget to be a little larger than what we have. We have a lengthy border to safeguard, we have the huge Chaco region which is almost empty and we need military units throughout our Chaco region. I am very acquainted with the Chaco, because I have spent a lot of time there. Now, with our Chaco Development Commission, I travel to that region a lot. Therefore, I am aware of the Chaco region's needs. I would like the military units in the Chaco to have the same degree of comfort as those in the Eastern region. [passage omitted]

[Fernandez] You also mentioned the lengthy border of our country and the need to increase the Armed Forces manpower. However, the integration process seeks to eliminate borders; a position quite different to you have just said. Do you really believe that the integration process will deprive the Armed Forces of one its main roles, that is, to safeguard the country's sovereignty. What sort or future are we preparing for; an integrated, peaceful country, or a country constantly on the lookout for a threat of war?

[Souto] I would not say that the defense of sovereignty justifies the existence of the Armed Forces. I would say that the defense of sovereignty, at this moment, is imperative. With the creation of a common market and the subsequent elimination of passport requirements at the borders, this possibility would undoubtedly mean that the Armed Forces would have to shrink. It is likely that even its specific mission would have to be redefined. However, I think we are rushing things and talking about something which, in my opinion, is still very remote. [passage omitted]

[Fernandez] General, if the military continue to be poorly paid and, taking into account that they have had to make a bit of money on the side, how will you go about controlling them and preventing them from earning a second salary?

[Souto] It is a matter of conscience. As I said at the beginning, we military men today are proud of having started the process that Paraguay is currently enjoying. Therefore, we are careful of doing things properly and we avoid engaging in the sort of irregularities that individuals of the previous regime engaged.

[Fernandez] Do you believe this transition process is treading the right path?

[Souto] I think it is, I think it is treading the right path despite the fact that there are still a lot of people who harbor feelings of revenge or hatred, a hatred which isolates them, a hatred that prevents them from enjoying this democracy that we are currently experiencing. If they cannot enjoy this current moment and they live in the past then they can hardly contribute to the future.

[Fernandez] Who are you talking about?

[Souto] I do not want to mention anybody in particular. I am referring to many people who are not really cooperating with the process.

[Fernandez] Are you a member of the Colorado Party?

[Souto] Yes, I am.

[Fernandez] What about the Colorado Party?

[Souto] It is very divided and I really do not think that this is a good thing. It has no leaders; a situation that has been happening for some time now. I already said this in a previous interview. I said that the Colorado Party has very few leaders probably because of the way in which the

previous government hand-picked them. Those leaders are now completely worn out. The Colorado Party has no leaders.

[Fernandez] Don't you fear that your party may become the opposition in 1993?

[Souto] Not at all. I think this is what democracy is all about. We must become accustomed to that. I believe that being a member of a governing party or an opposition party makes no difference, probably because I have lived many years abroad. We are all Paraguayan citizens and the fatherland comes first. I have always maintained this.

[Fernandez] Some members of the Colorado Party maintain the theory that the choice is between the Colorado Party or chaos.

[Souto] That is just a saying, I do not really think they really believe that.

[Fernandez] Some Colorado Party members say that if they do not win the 1993 elections this country will collapse. Do you agree?

[Souto] No, this is something we all say. A friend of mine used to say that some of us believe we are indispensable while others believe that we are dispensable. I think every one of us is dispensable.

[Fernandez] Does your party cooperate with General Rodriguez's government?

[Souto] I would say it does with certain reservations. The ideal thing would be for it to cooperate more. I would say that it does cooperate, generally, with General Rodriguez's government.

[Fernandez] 'Do Colorados complain that they lack internal representativity?

[Souto] Look, I would rather not engage in politics. I know more about the Armed Forces?

[Fernandez] However, you can engage in politics; because you have already retired.

[Souto] Yes, undoubtedly, but I would rather not elaborate on the subject because I do not really engage much in politics.

[Fernandez] Are there any chances of Angel Souto Hernandez will become a candidate of a determined political party for the 1993 elections. Would you like to be a presidential candidate?

[Souto] [laughs] I was not expecting that sort of question, you have really caught me by surprise. No, no, I do not have an answer.

[Fernandez] But you wouldn't dismiss the possibility, would you?

[Souto] I do not have an answer to that question. I would neither say yes nor no. The idea has never crossed my mind. [passage omitted]

Soviet Envoy Seeks Rapprochement Through Trade

PY1107125891 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0355 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador to Argentina Vladimir Nikitin by journalist Benjamin Fernandez Bogado during "In Detail" program in studio; live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Fernandez] Good evening, Ambassador, how are you?

[Nikitin] Good evening, I am fine.

[Fernandez] Ambassador, what are your feelings now that your presence here is a historical fact?

[Nikitin] I obviously feel moving emotions. Yet from a professional viewpoint, I feel very satisfied with the mission of visiting Paraguay. Since my childhood and for many years we have felt, and we still feel, deep appreciation for the Paraguayan people. Why? Because in my opinion, in the opinion of Soviets, our idiosyncrasies are very similar.

You Paraguayans, who live in an environment that is not so favorable but rather aggressive, are striving for a better life.

We Soviets are doing the same. I believe this is an axis of idiosyncrasy in which we have points of agreement, although there are also other good points.

[Fernandez] Like what?

[Nikitin] The nobleness of your character and your national dignity, which we hold in high regard, your confidence in your neighbors, your obedience and respect for international law and major principles. Those are, in general, the good points.

[Fernandez] Ambassador, your are in Paraguay on an observation mission. You have met with the speakers of Congress, with [Senate President] Gustavo Diaz de Vivar, with the foreign minister, and with businessmen. What does the visit by Vladimir Nikitin mean? Does it mean the beginning of stable, permanent, and concrete diplomatic relations between Paraguay and the USSR?

[Nikitin] Sure, it is a historical fact as you, Benjamin, put it. Actually, in diplomatic life, things do not work if stages are skipped. But when an ambassador visits a country that for a long time has had no relations with the ambassador's country—at least in this century we had almost no relations because there was an ambassador before the [Bolshevik] revolution who was in Argentina and who presented his credentials to the Paraguayan Government. This happened before the revolution, but there has not been an ambassador since the revolution.

Consequently, this situation has considerable significance—not just in terms of diplomatic philosophy or language, right?, but also because it marks the beginning of a rapprochement.

We say that one swallow does not make a summer, but the swallow does reveal a trend, and we will work with that trend.

[Fernandez] Ambassador, for many years in Paraguay—almost 35 years, and even longer—the official propaganda has portrayed you, Soviets—or Russians, as the official language is called—as some sort of "bogeymen," or "big demons" behind the iron curtain. What did you feel, what did you think about Paraguay? What was your propaganda about Paraguay?

[Nikitin] [laughs] I would first like to tell you that there is no arrogance whatsoever on our part with respect to Paraguay or to any other country in Latin America or in the rest of the world. No arrogance at all. We are equal. Yet, we had to break from our own idiosyncrasy, and I believe that we have to admire President Gorbachev, who opened an era in which there is no cold war. That is very important.

Concerning Paraguay, we know through our school and university handbooks about the Paraguayan people, people who struggle and whose history is marked by feats. You are very interesting people; yet, we had no other information because there were neither channels of information nor unrestricted visits. No Paraguayan tourists have visited the USSR nor have Soviet—Russian, as you said—tourists visited Paraguay.

Consequently, this lack of information created the myths, the myths about us here in Paraguay, the myths that we are an empire or something like that, and also the myths about Paraguay in the USSR.

The era of myths is over. We offer to Paraguay our friendship, we offer our hearts, and we want to cooperate with Paraguay.

I believe that trade will be one of the first steps. You know, Benjamin, that traders have for centuries paved the way between nations, and that diplomats came later.

We diplomats, and for that matter the entire political life, are intimately interconnected with trade. I believe that trade will be the first feasible concrete step in our relations. [passage omitted on domestic USSR affairs]

[Fernandez] We will continue to talk in the future. Do you believe that bilateral diplomatic relations will be established this year?

[Nikitin] You know I am a bit.... [changes thought] I have some prejudices. Let us not hurry. Let us allow things to happen in a natural manner.

Government Late in Payment of Foreign Debt

PY1107212091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Jul 91 p 8

[Summary] The Central Bank of Paraguay reported that on 31 May, the Paraguayan Government was late in the payment of $422.9199 million on its foreign debt. The Central Bank said that $318.5278 million was payment on the debt capital and $104.3921 million on the interest. The report added that the Paraguayan foreign debt stood at $1.6698 billion in May 1991.

Exports Decreased 35 Percent From Jan-Jun 1991

PY1207021491 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Jul 91 p 10

[Summary] The Customs General Directorate reported on 3 July that from January to June 1991, exports decreased 35 percent.

Bad climatic conditions reduced soybean production and wheat, which ranked fourth among Paraguayan exports from January-June 1990. However, it did not appear in the 1991 list of exports. The amount of beef exports decreased 567 percent, and soybean exports fell 52 percent.

Peru

Minister on Decrees, Gasoline Prices, Taxes

PA1107040791 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara by unidentified reporters in Lima on 9 July—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Has the salary tax been constitutionally scrapped?

[Torres y Torres] We are studying this important issue. We need to find a way to balance the salaries of government employees and those of the rest of the public servants; their salaries are disproportionate. Our society agrees with this, and we are seeking alternatives to create an adequate balance or unification of our resources. We must realize that the solution cannot be adopted by simply printing paper money. We have a set amount of funds and must distribute this small amount of funds equally among the community.

[Reporter] Prime Minister, would you disclaim that there will be a new increase in the price of gasoline?

[Torres y Torres] The fuel policy has been announced. There will sometimes be readjustments, but they will be in accordance with the policy of responding to international prices. On this issue, there should be no surprises. Peru's fuel policy is part of the policy being implemented in all the other sectors of the economy: the policy is to adapt our prices to market prices in our neighboring countries. Price adjustments are being made gradually.

[Reporter] What about the trip by the economy minister?

[Torres y Torres] The economy minister's trip has been suspended because several of the economy ministers with whom he was going to meet are not in their respective countries at this time; they are at international conventions. Consequently, we have decided to temporarily postpone the economy minister's trip until August. Around the middle of August, we will probably discuss the possibility of the minister making the trip.

State Workers Protest Government Labor Policies

PA1007191891 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] Lima, 8 Jul (AFP)—Labor union spokesmen announced today that over 22,000 employees of state banks and enterprises will be faced with the spectre of unemployment, because the government has declared their organizations to be in a state of emergency requiring a drastic personnel reduction, have initiated a "legal battle" against the measure.

Eduardo Castillo, secretary general of the Peruvian Bank Employees Federation (FEB), said that the 20,000 workers to be dismissed are employed by the state agrarian, mining, housing, and industrial banks, and the Financial Development Corporation. The reorganization of these enterprises has been decreed and economic incentives have been established for personnel to resign.

"The incentives are ridiculous. Some banks are offering $3,000 or two months vacation, which is blackmail," Castillo said. He added that since the deadline has expired without the submission of requests for "voluntary departure," hundreds of workers will be declared excess and dismissed with the authorization of the Labor Ministry.

Castillo said that "under the guise of voluntary resignations," the bank of the nation has already dismissed 1,200 workers, most of them labor activists, in an arbitrary, illegal, and unconstitutional manner.

The FEB leader said he has filed for a restraining order against the government decree that establishes the program of voluntary resignations with economic incentives on the grounds that it is unconstitutional and that it introduces "abuse of power and blackmail" into the labor system.

Castillo also announced that he will soon file charges with the International Labor Organization against the same decree, because it contravenes international agreements that are forced in Peru.

Some 2,000 employees of the state Aereo Peru, National Port Enterprise, and Peruvian National Transport Enterprise, which, a week ago were also declared in a state of emergency for 180 days, will be subject to a similar measure to reduce bureaucracy, according to a spokesman for the National Development Corporation, the organization which oversees state enterprises.

Meanwhile, 300,000 education workers (professors, directors and administrative employees) have decided to continue their indefinite strike, begun 60 days ago, because they consider the offer of a monthly increase of 40 "new sols," the new currency (some $50), to be "ridiculous and insulting."

Luber Caceres, secretary of economy of the education sector labor union, reported that police repression had already resulted in "six teachers dead, 120 missing, and many arrested, with some even accused of subversion."

A strike by 75,000 government workers is also continuing, with no end in sight. Meanwhile, three important labor federations and the FEB have called a 24-hour strike for 18 July, in solidarity with the unions in conflict and to protest the labor policies of President Alberto Fujimori's administration.

Further Reportage on Shooting Down of Aircraft

Eyewitness Accounts Reported

PA1107135491 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1204 GMT 11 Jul 91

["Exclusive" report by Edwin Torres and Yorka Poemape from Bellavista, San Martin Department—figures as heard, passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [First unidentified witness] "I want justice done against the bad policemen. I was there, about 30 meters from them. I work for the municipal airport. I was going about my business when the policemen got to the landing strip. The airport is outside the town. I was walking along and as I approached the runway the airplane was about to take off. The bad policemen were down there.

[Torres] "How many policemen?

[First witness] "About 10 policemen. They were drinking and stopping cars below at the town exit. They were drinking. In fact, the police lieutenant was there with them.

[Torres] "The policemen were stopping the cars and asking for money?

[First witness] "Yes.

[Torres] "They used that money to buy drinks. From there, they headed up to the airport.

[First witness] "They were not in the city. They were outside the city. I saw them, about 20 meters away from me. They opened fire on the airplane, 10 policemen. They fired at the airplane from the front.

[Torres] "Was the lieutenant with them?

[First witness] "Yes he was."

[Torres] This is the Aerochasqui airplane, registration No. 12-18, that crashed on the banks of Rio Huallaga about 800 meters from the airport and 1 km from Bellavista. Army personnel and local residents have come to help in recovering the bodies.

[Torres] "How many passengers were killed?

[Unidentified official] "So far, the figure is 15; one is a minor of approximately 8 years of age. According to town residents, it seems policemen were involved."

[Crowd shout indistinct words against the police and chanting the slogan: "Murderous policemen out of Bellavista!"]

[Second unidentified witness] "There was a burst of fire, not one or two shots?

[Poemape] "How many people fired?

[Second witness] "Almost all of them.

[Poemape] "How many?

[Second witness] "Almost all the policemen who were there in a group of about 12. Approximately 12 policemen did the shooting.

[Poemape] "General Malca [Peruvian interior minister], do you see bullet holes in this aircraft?

[Malca] "There seem to be bullet holes.

[Poemape] "Where exactly?

[Malca] "As you can see, here we have two bullet impacts.

[Poemape] "Are there others in the upper part?

[Malca] "It seems that way, next to the engine.

[Poemape] "What does this mean?

[Malca] "The evidence indicates that the airplane was shot at from the ground, but I cannot tell you who did it. Everything seems to indicate a police patrol did it, but... [does not finish sentence]"

[Poemape] This is the airplane that crashed in the Vainilla Area, Bellavista. As the interior minister stated, we can see here one of the holes that caused the crash, claiming 15 lives.

[First unidentified resident] "We brought the political and military zoning authorities to this area so that they can provide a precise report. They are simply heeding the call of the people who want justice.

[Second unidentified resident] "The people expect justice, no matter who is involved. The people know completely well who is responsible for this, that is clear, but no one will file specific charges because they are afraid. It is well known that the Army and the police are here, but when they leave, who is going to dare file charges? No one will. The people are afraid, however, they know full well the police did it.

[Malca] "The people of Bellavista want justice. Let justice be done. Let us help justice be done. Just as we want to be respected, let us respect doubt and the right of every citizen to be considered innocent until a judge decides otherwise."

[Third unidentified resident, in progress] ....to investigate nine [as heard] Bellavista policemen." [Crowd applauds]

Communique Issued

PY1107205891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0415 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Lima, 10 Jul (Andina)—The Interior Ministry issued an official communique today on the downing of an Aerochasqui Airline plane that states:

Official Communique

Regarding the downing of the Aerochasqui airplane in Bellavista, San Martin Department, attributed to National Police members, the Interior Ministry informs the citizenry of the following:

1. Given the seriousness of the events and in order to investigate the situation, the interior minister, together with the National Police director and inspector general, visited the accident site today.

2. As a result of preliminary investigations, it has been determined that the accident was caused by an antisubversive police patrol that was patrolling the area between Bellavista and Puerto Rico. The patrol began at 1500 in Bellavista.

During their patrol, the police saw the aircraft land at 1630 at the Bellavista airport. Thinking it was boarding people connected with narcoterrorism, some members of the police patrol tried to reach the landing strip in time to stop it from taking off, but failed. As the airplane took off, some policemen shot at it.

After a forced turn, the aircraft crashed about 3 km away from the airport with regrettable consequences that are known to the public.

When the police patrol returned to its base at 1730, it reported that the airplane crashed, but not that they had participated in the incident. Preliminary investigations have not found evidence that the patrol members were drunk.

3. The patrol was under the command of National Police Lieutenant Javier Malaga Cavero and its members were Sergeant Roberto Galvez Vela, Sergeant Filiberto Rios Puerta, Corporal Jose Farro Coronado, and soldiers Fabri Rivera Salvador, Carlos Ruiz Mendoza, Elmer Ramirez Guerrero, Jorge Jaramillo Capitan, Ramon Rodriguez Rengifo, and Luis Puscan Pinedo.

4. In order to complete the investigation, the preventive arrests of the aforementioned patrol members have been ordered, while the appropriate denouncement was made before Bellavista Province Prosecutor Javier Marquillo Maldonado, with the knowledge of Judge James Barrantes, for the effects of penal action.

The investigations of the administrative and disciplinary aspects still are being carried out by the National Police's inspector general. Lima, 10 July 1991 Social Communications Office of the Interior Ministry

MRTA Rebels Die in Shoot-Out With Police

PA1107160791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0341 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Lima, 10 Jul (EFE)—Police sources have reported that two alleged members of the Peruvian terrorist group Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) were killed in Lima today during a shoot-out with police.

The clash occurred this evening after a group of rebels hurled an explosive device against a police riot vehicle that was parked at the door of a police station in La Victoria District, Lima.

Police in a patrol car chased the three attackers who threw the bomb from a moving car, catching them some 500 meters away.

An officer who participated in the operation said that the terrorists hurled a grenade and fired their weapons at the pursuers, but caused no damage. He added that the police managed to stop them amid a gunfight.

One of the rebels died on the scene where they were caught, at the intersection of two important roads which were very busy at the time, and the other died on the way to the hospital. A third attacker was hospitalized with serious wounds.

The sources said that the device destroyed the police vehicle and that the terrorists left MRTA pamphlets with Guevarist slogans on the doorstep of the police station after their attack.

Meanwhile, a communique issued this evening by the Armed Forces Joint Command reported that counter-insurgency patrols captured seven "terrorist criminals" on 8 July, during operations carried out in two areas in Ayacucho Department.

According to the military report, the prisoners were taken in Jaqui and along a tributary of the Lampalla River, where the security forces also seized 35 sticks of dynamite, a holster, small boxes of buckshot gun powder, and home-made bombs.

District Mayor Murdered by Unknown Assassins

PA1107145991 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2023 GMT 10 July 91

[Text] Lima 10 July (DPA)—It was revealed today in Lima that Tito Quispe, mayor of the District of Huacrapuquio, located in the Peruvian Department of Huancayo, was murdered on 9 July by unidentified assailants who shot him while he was leaving his residence.

Quispe, 32, a communist, was approached by some men and shot five times in front of his wife and small children. Initially, the murder was attributed to the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group that has been carrying out a wave of violent attacks against district authorities all over Peru.

The working class mayor lived in a squatter neighborhood in Huacrapuquio, and combined his official position with that of street hawker in order to cover his expenses.

According to his widow Nelida Balbin, the mayor had received death threats from the Shining Path for not obeying the extremist group's instructions. Despite these threats, the mayor did not have any security protection.

Huacrapuquio, which is located 300 km east of Lima, is a small impoverished district bordering Huancayo, capital city of the Junin Department, one of the regions most afflicted by the political violence that is draining Peru.

* Counterterrorism, Human Rights Abuses Addressed

* Fujimori on Subversion

91WR0241A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Jun 91 p A4

[Text] "For 11 years, we have been engaged in a domestic struggle which, because of its characteristics, requires the union of civilian and military efforts. The struggle against antinational subversion demands a commitment from all of us Peruvians who want to live in peace and liberty." This statement was made by President Alberto Fujimori yesterday in the course of the speech given at a ceremony held to celebrate the 111th anniversary of the Battle of Arica and to renew the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Although it is not traditional for the president of the Republic to speak at this ceremony, Alberto Fujimori, as commander in chief of the armed forces, delivered this address because of the importance of the period "of national reconstruction" in which the country is involved, as he put it, in which the joint and patriotic participation of the civilian and military population has become absolutely essential.

The chief of state emphasized that although the struggle against subversion is the duty of all Peruvian citizens who want to live in peace and freedom, each category in society has a specific role to play. The armed forces, for example, must fight in the emergency zones, as must the National Police in the populated areas, in coordination with the self-defense forces, such as the urban and peasant patrols, while the civilian population must fulfill its duty by carrying out the work it is doing, whatever that may be, in the best possible way.

Armed Forces Civic Action

However, he noted that the armed forces have also been carrying out civic duties to meet the most pressing needs of the people in the emergency zones. "This silent but always self-sacrificing work represents an important step forward in the war against subversion," he said.

President Fujimori also stated that he is determined to continue the fight "without respite or hesitation, and increasingly inspired by the beautiful and exemplary determination of the hero of Arica," to achieve well-being and pacification for the nation.

He also spoke of the civic actions carried out by the Army at the two national universities, where they have contributed to the cleanup effort at these higher educational institutions by painting the walls and eliminating the subversive slogans which for some years now have been making these sites into blackboards for the terrorists.

"This action was designed to show the students that it is absurd for them to let themselves be enslaved by a handful of soulless beings, and that the university should be a home and a nursery where the most precious values of society are nurtured. For this reason, it has become necessary to reestablish discipline and the principle of authority, as the entire university community and the country are demanding."

"Like Bolognesi and the illustrious soldiers who fought with him in the Arica epic in defense of the fatherland, those of us Peruvians who are experiencing this severe crisis today must rally around the Constitution which governs us to carry out a task which cannot be postponed, one equal in magnitude and importance to that which faced the Peruvians in that ill-starred era."

Solemn Democratic Commitment

Speaking to the "men in uniform," he said that he viewed the renewed pledge of allegiance to the flag they had just made as a solemn commitment to democracy, "and the

weapons you have received will only be used to defend it, to consolidate it, and to make it stronger every day. For only if we live in democracy will we be able to achieve the goals, the grandeur we have set for ourselves and which we Peruvians deserve."

At the beginning of this unexpected address, President Fujimori said that he approached this ceremony with the fervor and the determination with which one responds to an honorable summons, "in order to commemorate the heroic sacrifice of Francisco Bolognesi and to renew the sacred pledge of allegiance to our flag and the promise to defend, to the last bullet, our sovereignty, our independence, and the right of our people to live in democracy, freedom, peace, and the pursuit of true social justice."

Rebuilding the Country

The chief of state expressed the view that perhaps more than at any other moment in the last century of our national history, the commemoration of the Battle of Arica today is of great importance. "Because we have decided to rebuild the country and to lead it along the path of progress and justice of which its founders dreamed, and which was also the dream the hero of Arica nurtured in his heart when he knowingly surrendered his life, illuminating our America and the world by his example."

"This flag which flutters before our eyes today bore witness, on 7 June 1880, to the supreme courage of an exemplary Peruvian who, by offering the greatest thing a human being can—his life for a just cause, for the fatherland, for this land and this sky which are our unrenounceable heritage, as are the flag and the cause inspired by Grau, Quinones, and so many other Peruvians who have given their lives—has made himself immortal."

Noting that these are the heroes who nurture the ideals of Peru, he said that the efforts inspired by the hatred and terrorism of those who want, by using violence, to impose on our country another flag and other ideals alien to the spirit, the history, and the tradition of Peru will be futile.

* Torres on Human Rights

91WR0241B Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
10 Jun 91 p A4

[Text] In the coming weeks, President of the Republic Alberto Fujimori will visit the zones in the interior of the country where a state of emergency has been declared in order personally to deliver shotguns to the peasant members of the self-defense patrols, so that they will not continue to be easy victims for the terrorist criminals.

This announcement was made yesterday by General Jorge Torres Aciego, the minister of defense, who explained that the weapons are being manufactured by Sima-Peru on special order from the chief of state.

He said that the antisubversive strategy planned for his sector calls for the participation of the armed forces and the National Police in both the socioeconomic development of the country and the battle to put an end to subversion and its links with drug trafficking, with the assistance of the population.

Excesses Will Be Penalized

On the other hand, he announced harsh and drastic penalties for the bad elements in the forces of law and order who commit excesses in the antisubversive struggle.

"Only thus," he said, "can the desire to pacify the country within the most absolute respect for human rights be implemented." At the same time he reiterated the determination of the government to put an end to terrorism, "because only thus will we be able to overcome the crisis and achieve development and general well-being."

During the address he delivered to the delegates attending the First National Base Assembly of Cambio 90, the minister of defense said that in the past decade, terrorism has resulted in losses of more than $20 billion, the equivalent of our foreign debt.

But he also said that it is the humble peasants and civilians who have suffered most during this period.

Assessing the struggle the executive branch is waging to eliminate these criminal gangs, Torres Aciego emphasized that "progress is slow, but certain."

He added that the strategies and programs exist, "but we cannot be asked to do everything in 10 months of government which was not done over a decade."

He emphasized that it is the president of the Republic himself who has assumed leadership of this struggle, to which end he is holding regular coordination meetings with the military and police commands.

* Leftists Rally To Oppose Antidrug Agreement

* Parties Form Bloc

91WD0875A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
8 Jun 91 p A5

[Text] Practically all of the Peruvian leftist groups have joined together to form a "Patriotic Movement" bloc to oppose the antidrug agreement signed some weeks ago between the governments of Peru and the United States for combating drug trafficking.

At a press conference yesterday at which Jorge Hurtado (Comrade Ludovico), the president of the IU [United Left] presided, these groups made public a "pronouncement" against the agreement they regard as a "sellout," which requires their participation "to defend our national sovereignty."

Comrade Ludovico recognized that the battle against drug trafficking is just, but he categorically rejected the agreement in question, expressing the view that it is not true that there is a consensus regarding it, according to the surveys he said he had seen, despite the fact that those made public indicate the contrary.

He also argued that the suggestions of the peasant coca growers were not taken into account, although as soon as the agreement was signed, the coca farmers from Alto Huallaga paid President Fujimori a personal visit to express their support to him. They also said that the document signed was consistent with a proposal they

themselves had drafted and for which they had been struggling to win government support for more than a year.

Comrade Ludovico, who is presently a republican senator, was accompanied by other local communist leaders.

* Bloc's Supporters Noted

91WD0875B Lima CAMBIO in Spanish 30 May 91 p 15

[Interview with Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) President Yehude Simon Munaro by "FVO"; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] Aware of the serious national and international problems, the progressive sectors in the country have launched a debate for the purpose of creating an Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Front to strengthen the organization of the struggle in the medium time range, Yehude Simon Munaro, the president of the BPR [Popular Revolutionary Bloc], indicated in the interview which follows.

[FVO] Has the United Left front accepted the proposal your movement put forward some months ago? How was the Patriotic Front originally conceived, and under what circumstances?

[Munaro] It was our organization, in one way or another, which launched the idea of forming the Patriotic Front, insofar as the fatherland was in danger, not only because of what the Fujimori government represents, but also because of what could be seen ahead of us, such as the antidrug-agreement question, the problems of Eastern Europe and the Persian Gulf, the lack of Peru's integration as a nation, and the loss of the values of the traditional political parties. This made it necessary to reconsider the situation and to resolve it, and instead of remaining on the defensive, we needed to take the offensive. That is how the Patriotic Front was conceived.

[FVO] Taking on imperialism and being on the offensive—what does this mean?

[Munaro] First of all, we need to be prepared to fight U.S. imperialism, which now has a free hand. We cannot continue to exist as an available, plundered source of supply. Our natural and economic resources cannot be handed over so cheerfully in exchange for charity. Secondly, the Peruvian people are looking for leadership in this connection, and it is our moral and revolutionary obligation to provide it. Therefore, building a great Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Front is an urgent and indispensable task.

[FVO] To whom, in addition to the leftist groups and parties, are you issuing an appeal?

[Munaro] We believe that the left should be hegemonic, in the best sense of the word, but in addition, other patriotic and progressive sectors, both civilian and military, must participate. They include, for example, the secret union of policemen, retired military personnel, the youth of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), and even sectors of Popular Action, all sectors which are in some way linked with the national movement, Christians, and all Peruvians prepared to spill their blood generously in the effort to establish a new order which will provide justice for the underprivileged of the earth.

[FVO] Have you had talks with or indications of interest from these forces?

[Munaro] Although it seems unlikely, the initial talks were held with the APRA youth. After we made our proposal, it was the APRA youth who were most enthusiastic about the idea. Also, some Christian sectors made their desire and availability known to us. We also had talks with other sectors on the left, basically on the level of the United Left, with which we have a commitment to the building of this Patriotic Front.

[FVO] To what extent might the development of this Patriotic Front be an alternative for reactivating the leftist forces in Peru?

[Munaro] First of all, I want to explain that the Patriotic Front will not be organized overnight. Rather, this is a task which may take two or three years. In this connection, I believe that the reactivation of the left will proceed by stages. In the short and medium time range, the Peruvian left will be totally rebuilt. For this reason, we hail the fact that at a PUM [Mariateguist Unified Party] ceremony held to honor Carlos Malpica, the Ludovico senator, as the current president of the United Left, called upon all of the leftist forces to contribute to the building of the Patriotic Front. Certainly, then, this is a positive step toward the reactivation of the left, and it also allows us to believe that the people still have hope.

[FVO] One of the fundamental axes for the development of this front was the rejection of the antidrug agreement. Why are you opposing this agreement?

[Munaro] The Patriotic Front will be established by the majority of the forces which oppose the agreement. This is because it not only represents a sellout, but blackmail as well, in which the most important protagonist—the peasant—is not taken into account, and also because of Fujimori's dictatorial action with the legislature. I want to make it clear that the BPR does not oppose the signing of an agreement to combat drug trafficking, but rather the signing of this specific agreement.

[FVO] What other measures are evidence of obvious submission to the imperialists?

[Munaro] It is painful to admit, but all of the measures promulgated by this government have been characterized by submission to the imperialists. Its monetary-fund policy, liberal to the extreme, has meant more acute hunger and poverty for the Peruvian people, and with the signing of this agreement, Fujimori is seeking to justify Yankee military intervention.

[FVO] Would this Anti-Imperialist Patriotic Front also draft a proposal for the demilitarization of the country? What does the pacification proposal involve?

[Munaro] Unlike the pacification proposal of the government, which is designed to impose the peace of the graveyard, based on the filthy war and the militaristic

actions of its repressive forces, which offer the Peruvian people no guarantees, it is our belief that violence should be replaced with real peace. And this will be achieved by replacing poverty with well-being and social justice, and all of this will be achieved by the organized people. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Defense Minister Dismisses Report of Coup

PA1007190791 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2332 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Caracas, 9 Jul (DPA)—Today, New Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich dismissed charges of a possible coup against the government of Carlos Andres Perez, and noted that the authorities are investigating the officers involved in well- publicized corruption and drug trafficking scandals.

In Venezuela, "a coup is not in the making because the country's institutions are solid," the defense minister stated, rejecting the charges by the editor of a local newspaper, who said that some intelligence officials are reportedly planning a coup in Venezuela.

Rafael Poleo, editor of opposition newspaper NUEVO PAIS, told the press that members of the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) also plan to kill Gen. Ochoa Antich and several newsmen, including Jose Vicente Rangel, who leveled charges against officers in several reports.

Several alleged DIM members stormed Poleo's home a month ago, and—according to Poleo—stole documents that revealed the existence of a planned coup d'etat. Afterward, a DIM agent suspected of having participated in this operation was killed at a military office.

According to Poleo, the DIM constitutes the "greatest center of power in the country, and has the capacity to kill." It was either planning a coup or trying to impose General Santiago Ramirez [Defense Ministry general director] as the new defense minister. However, the editor charged, the plan began to fall apart when Perez appointed Gen. Ochoa Antich.

The new defense minister, who took office a few days ago, is apparently trying to dismantle the DIM, which has been implicated in well publicized cases over the past few weeks. In one of these scandals, General Herminio Fuenmayor, who has already been dismissed as DIM chief, was implicated with a drug trafficking gang.

Gen. Ochoa Antich said, however, that the DIM will not be eliminated, but restructured. The intelligence service "must perform specific duties in the military field, and therefore, it must not be in charge of any duty that falls in the general category of politics," he noted following a meeting with Perez.

Futher Reportage on Romanian President's Visit

Meets With Businessmen

AU0907204491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1917 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 9/7/1991—Now on a visit to Venezuela, Romania's President Ion Iliescu was guest to the Guyana Industrial Area, Bolivar State, where he conversed with Leopoldo Sucre Figarrella, minister of state, president of Guyana Corporation, and with representatives of the Sido (metallurgy), Alcasa (aluminium) Concerns and of the Guri waterpower station.

Questions were approached with regard to the potential spheres of Romanian-Venezuelan collaboration.

Approaching the same topics Mr. Iliescu also talked with Venezuelan businessmen, some of them Romanian-born.

He also had an interview with the Venezuelan minister of mines and energy, Celestino Armas.

During the interviews stress was laid on the fact that the economies of Romania and Venezuela showed signs of complementarity, and that opportunities existed for collaboration in the metal, oil, extractive and alumiunium industries, in forestry, water and harbour management, in the production of rolling stock, ships and farm machinery.

It was set that this autumn the joint commission should meet to translate into fact various forms of cooperation.

The president of Romania, Ion Iliescu, and the president of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, attended a gala concert in Caracas.

Trade Agreement Signed

PA1007195391 Paris AFP in Spanish 0520 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Caracas, 9 Jul (AFP) - The Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], Venezuela's main business organization, signed a commercial trade agreement in Caracas on 9 July, during Romanian President Ion Iliescu's visit to Venezuela.

In the document, the commercial and business organizations agreed to establish permanent institutional and communication ties and increase their exchange of information on economic issues.

They also agreed to organize commercial and industrial fairs and expositions in the two countries.

The agreement also includes the promotion of periodic meetings between Venezuelan and Romanian businessmen to study the possible areas of interrelation between their respective markets. In addition, Fedecamaras also proposed the creation of a Romanian-Venezuelan chamber of commerce.

Iliescu began his official visit to Venezuela on 7 July and will remain in the country until 10 July.

Guyana

President Hoyte Makes Cabinet Changes

PA0607233091 Paris AFP in Spanish 2108 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, 6 Jul (AFP)—Official sources in Georgetown announced today that Vice President Viola Burnham, widow of late president Forbes Burnham, and four other cabinet ministers were removed from President Desmond Hoyte's cabinet.

The four other out-going ministers are Seeram Prashad, secretary general of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC); Regional Development Minister Jeffrey Thomas; former Information Minister Yvonne Harewood-Benn; and Urmia Johnson.

A communique issued on the evening of 5 July by President Hoyte states that the vice president asked to be relieved of her duties.

According to the communique, Trade and Tourism Minister Winston Murray was named deputy prime minister, and will also be in charge of the Industry Ministry. He will be advised by Minister Dharam Dew Sawh.

Robert Corbin, the other deputy prime minister, will be in charge of the Ministry of Communications and Works. His adviser will be Minister Jules Kranenburg.

A new cabinet member is Rabbian Ali-Khan, who has been assigned to the Ministry of Labor, Human Services, and Social Security. His aide is Minister Jean Persico.

Education Minister Deryck Bernard has been given an additional responsibility—the Culture and Social Development Ministry. Gowkarran Sharma, who was labor minister, has been transferred to the Presidency. Minister Faith Harding was also assigned to the Presidency, and she will remain in charge of the Public Utilities Ministry.

The ministers who were not affected by the changes are Prime Minister Hamilton Green, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge, Agriculture Minister Patrick Mackenzie, and Internal Affairs Minister Stella Odie-Ali.

The new cabinet will be sworn in on 8 July.

Hoyte Appoints Jackson to Caricom Project

FL1107004391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2153 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, June 10, Cana—Guyana President Desmond Hoyte said here on Wednesday that he intends to appoint former Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson to assist him in examining the possibility of the free movement of skilled Caribbean Community (Caricom) nationals within the region.

Hoyte was assigned this responsibility at last week's Caricom heads summit in St. Kitts.

"The free movement of people is fundamental to the success of the integration movement, and until we can achieve that, we can never talk about being successful in achieving the purposes and objectives of Caricom," Hoyte said. The people of Caricom must be able to see the whole region as a common homeland where they can move without let, or hindrance. I see the decision of the heads as being a bold, practicable measure which shows their seriousness in attempting to advance the progress of the integration movement," Hoyte told journalists.

Ministers Reassigned in Reorganization

FL0807162591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 6, CANA—The Guyana Government has announced the departure of five ministers, reassignment of six others, and two promotions in a cabinet reshuffle effective next Monday. The government also announced creation of a new ministry.

Losing their portfolios are Ministers Seeram Prashad, Jeffrey Thomas, Urmia Johnson, and Yvonne-Harewood Benn. Viola Burnham, vice-president responsible for social development and culture, has resigned. Trade and Tourism Minister Winston Murray has been elevated to deputy prime minister in the Trade Ministry. The new face in the government is Rabbian Ali-Khan, chairman of the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commission, as senior minister for a newly designated Ministry of Labour, Human Services, and Social Security.

The official Guyana Public Communication Agency (GPCA) said four of the ministers leaving "will assume special assignments within the (ruling People's National Congress [PNC]) party's election campaign structure". Elections are expected in the final quarter of this year. Prashad, Thomas, Johnson, and Harewood-Benn have held senior positions in the PNC executive or its women's arm, and Prashad, until now a minister in the Planning and Development Ministry, is the party's general secretary.

The reassignments are: Gowkarran Sharma and Faith Harding from Labour and Public Service respectively to Office of the President; Jules Kranenburg from Works and Communication to assist in the Communications Ministry; Deputy Prime Minister Robert Corbin from Utilities to Public Works, Communications and Regional Development; Dharamdeo Sawh from Utilities to Tourism; and Jean Persico to Labour.

The number of government ministries here is being cut from 18 to 11, under a civil service restructuring programme undertaken with British financial and technical assistance within a wider programme of economic restructuring. The resignation from the government of the vice president responsible for culture and social welfare, Burnham, the widow of former President Forbes Burnham, comes several months after she stood down from re-election as head of the women's arm of the People's National Congress.

The four ministers losing their portfolios and identified for duties in the ruling party have strong links within the PNC and were major figures in previous election campaigns. Prashad served in the Planning and Development Ministry, Harewood-Benn served in the Office of the President, and Thomas and Johnson served in the Regional

Development Ministry, now part of the new Ministry of Public Works, Communication and Regional Development headed by Deputy Prime Minister Corbin.

Rabbian Ali-Khan, as minister of labour, human services and social security, heads a ministry which absorbs functions previously held by Gowkarran Sharma as minister of labour and others linked wih social welfare. Corbin's previous responsibility for utilities is being swallowed in his newly created public works, communication and regional development portfolio. Former Works and Communications Minister Jules Kranenburg will now work within Corbin's ministry. Educaton Minister Deryck Bernard retains his portfolio.

Last month a task force co-ordinating the civil service restructuring said a final three of eleven ministries to comprise the streamlined service will be addressed in a second phase of the restructuring later this year. The three ministries so far untouched by the programme are Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs (both overseen by President Desmond Hoyte) and Legal Affairs, headed by Attorney General Keith Massiah.

Ex-Ministers Assigned to Election Preparations

FL1107002391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 10, CANA—Four Guyana Government ministers whose portfolios were quashed last week have been reassigned within the People's National Congress [PNC] to mobilise financial and other support as the party gears for national elections, President Desmond Hoyte said Wednesday.

The ex-ministers have already assumed their tasks, Hoyte said at a news conference here. Former senior minister in the state Planning secretariat and PNC General Secretary Seeram Prashad is in charge of mobilising and managing the party's election funds, vehicles, equipment, and other materials. Jeffrey Thomas, ex-Regional Development minister, has been assigned to mobilising people and has special responsibility for running the PNC election campaign in one of Guyana's ten administrative regions. Former Information Minister Yvonne Harewood-Benn will now manage the party's women's arm full-time, and is also charged with mobilising the support of women for the PNC. Urima Johnson, who was junior Regional Development minister, will assist Harewood-Benn in her task, Hoyte said at the presidential secretariat in Georgetown.

Seven ministries were scrapped or merged into others from Monday on the recommendation of the British consultancy firm Peat Marwick McLintock, which is overseeing the restructuring of Guyana's public service.

IDB To Provide $50 Million Development Loan

FL0507161191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1440 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 5, CANA—The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is to provide Guyana with U.S. 50 million dollars a year in development loans between 1991-1993, the bank's June bulletin said. The bank said that the funding is the highest level of IDB lending to Guyana under its three-year lending programme.

"Funding, in the form of grants for technical co-operation operations over the same period is expected to total U.S. 8.8 million dollars," the bulletin said.

It said that a U.S. 50 million dollars agricultural sector loan is in the pipeline for Guyana this year. However, the 1991 programme will focus on relief projects to ease the economic hardships for the "vulnerable groups." The 1992 programme will also facilitate urgently-needed improvements to basic infrastructure.

The bank may fund the sea wall and urban rehabilitation projects and the expansion of the Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) generation system. The IDB said that it is awaiting the outcome of negotiations between the GEC and overseas-based consultants for the management support and the setting up of a unit to implement the project. A part of the U.S. 15.5 million dollars loan to the GEC will cover the supply of spares for plant for three years. This loan was extended on exceptionally soft terms from the bank's fund for special operations.

The three-year programme of financial assistance will also benefit a restructured public service here. The IDB has been asked to assist in designing a programme to attract and retain key staff in the public sector. British consultants, who are overseeing the restructuring estimate a 45 per cent vacancy rate in the public service because of poor salaries and little scope for promotion. The bank may fund a consultancy to identify key position in this sector which needs to be filled urgently, the bulletin said. It quoted bank officials as saying that competitive salaries are necessary for retaining qualified staff. The IDB is to discuss the possibility of establishing special financing methods with other multilateral agencies for the local public sector.

WPA Regrets Breakdown of Opposition Coalition

FL1207021091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2035 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 11, CANA—The opposition Working People's Alliance (WPA) is disappointed the main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has decided to contest Guyana's forthcoming elections alone, a WPA spokesman said.

WPA prime ministerial candidate Dr. Rupert Roopnarine said it was a mistake for other opposition parties to be closing the door on an opposition alliance when all the conditions for a free and fair election have not yet been met.

Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the PPP leader, announced Sunday that his party had decided to contest the elections alone with some civic input. The announcement, made at the party's 24th biennial congress, effectively slammed the door on revived hopes for an opposition alliance to contest the election against the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

"We should hold open the possibility of a united slate and a consensus (presidential) candidate so that we can put that in place at the last minute, if necessary, so that we can go into an imperfect election with a single slate," Roopnarine said. "If there is going to be an imperfect election, a single slate remains the historically most necessary response to it," he added.

Dr. Jagan said the PPP took the decision to contest the elections alone after "some unrealistic proposals" from other parties belonging to the loose Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD). PCD parties had objected to Dr. Jagan being the consensus candidate. Roopnarine said the WPA, in a letter to the PCD, had indicated it was prepared to drop such opposition in the interest of opposition unity.